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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST 2011



Ysgol Bro Morgannwg students recently welcomed their parents to an information evening at the school. (SEE PAGE 8 FOR FULL DETAILS).

Is the Rhoose Point saga finally coming to an end?

THE long-running saga that has left the highways and sewerage system at Rhoose Point unadopted could be moving towards a conclusion.

As the GEM went to press, the cabinet of the Vale Council was considering a recommendation by senior officers to formally adopt the highways

on the estate. This course of action can take place now, says the report, because land has been transferred to the council from the developer, Cofton, which is in administration.

The council has previously refused to adopt the highways until sewers under the roads were transferred to Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW).

However, the report says: "...the vast majority of private sewers throughout the Vale of Glamorgan have now been adopted, including the gravity foul water sewers at Rhoose Point".

The report says that the pumping station and "rising main" on the estate are not yet adopted, but says that it is planned that this should happen before October 1, 2016.

DCWW has also not yet adopted the surface water drainage system, but the council will be asking it to do so.

The report says that until the surface water system is adopted, costs involved in maintaining it will be "borne proportionately" by the council and residents.

It says that the risk is considered to be "minimal" as the system has worked for more than five years.

As local traders form new association...
Upper Holton Road in line for regeneration

TRADEERS at the top of Holton Road hope that a report into the future of the area will act as a catalyst for a regeneration programme.

The Vale Council cabinet has decided that the report, undertaken by MP Town Planning should form the basis of a consultation on the area.

John Lewis, the owner of JPL Sound – The Barry Music Shop, which is situated in Upper Holton Road, said a traders' association was being created, and he hoped there would be a positive relationship with the council in stimulating the area.

He said: "The traders have already had an initial meeting. We are in the Christmas run-up, but once that is over, we will have another meeting in the new year with the aim of getting the association off the ground."

Mr Lewis said people only had to look at how successful the High Street Traders' Association was to realise the benefits of business owners working together to promote an area.

He said he had been particularly impressed by the huge numbers of people that had attended the Christmas lights switch-on at High Street.

"We need businesses at the top of Holton Road to work together and have a stronger voice.

"There are a number of strong

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

specialist shops here, but some people are unaware of them.

"We've been here 11 years and some people still say: 'We didn't realise there was a music shop in Barry!'"

Mr Lewis said that one of the things that regeneration needed to get to grips with was properties that were boarded up.

If someone parks at the multi-storey car park in Barry and walks onto Holton Road, they can look towards the top of it and think there's not much up there – not realising that at the top there are thriving businesses."

RETAIL CENTRE

The report, that will now go before scrutiny and planning councillors, points out that Upper Holton Road "is located sufficiently away from Barry major town centre to ensure that it would act as a distinctively separate retail centre".

It highlights that the area suffered from a lack of vitality, high vacancy rates and a lack of care and investment.

However, the study also indicated that the mix of businesses was encouraging. It suggests that outside the "retail core", some commercial properties could be converted to residential premises, ending the sight of empty buildings with shutters or boards. It

also provides guidance on how the facades could be improved.

Older Barry people have told Mr Lewis that at one time the top of Holton Road was more of an 'upper class' area before it fell into decline.

In recent years, both Holton Road and Thompson Street have had major facelifts.

Upper Holton Road could be the next on the list.

Mr Lewis said that things had improved since he had opened 11 years ago.

"More shops have opened up and there is a strong nucleus.

"Next year, I'd like to see traders and the community hold an event, possibly using Bassett Park, to highlight what we have to offer."

INVESTMENT

The Vale councillor for Casteland ward, Chris Elmore, welcomed the news that Upper Holton Road looks as if it could be regenerated and that a new Upper Holton Road traders association is to be established.

Coun Elmore said: "I met many of the traders earlier this year to go through the plans for the Casteland Renewal Area and at the time they were keen to establish a traders' association for the Upper Holton Road area."

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 5)



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DOG OWNERS JUST DON'T GET IT!

YEET another letter from a dog walker (The GEM, November 24) who cannot see the dog poo problem because he or she doesn't cause it...

What is ridiculous is not banning dog walking on the pitches, but the fact that this person compares dog fouling to people parking outside the house – oh dear, oh dear.

Let me explain; one is a nuisance, the other can blind our children, and I'll leave those concerned to work out which is which.

And to be frank, dog fouling is an offence, legitimate car parking, even outside your house, is not.

This person, who wishes to remain anonymous, picks up the doggy-doo – as do many others, but many dog walkers do not, as a

former secretary of Llanwit Rugby Club and a mini and juniors coach for 10 years, I've picked up my share of other people's dog muck.

I live near the comprehensive school and suffer visitors and pupils parking in the street every day. I know they'll be gone by tea-time, so I don't get uptight about it any longer.

Approximately 100 children every year are partially blinded by Toxicariasis (netdoctor.co.uk 24/11/2011), the vast majority directly attributed to dog excrement.

This can come from contaminated soil as well as the poo – that's why it's important to protect the pitches.

Please don't forget that when next you compare the effects of car parking near your house, and dog fouling on sports pitches.

Gerwyn Thomas
Llanwit Major.

'Royal Mail has a duty to ensure letters arrive safely'

WITH reference to Michael Madigan's letter (The GEM, November 24) about non-receipt of mail that had been confirmed as having been dispatched, I was sent a letter from the Princess of Wales Hospital advising me of an outpatient's appointment which I never received, and I am now awaiting advice of a replacement appointment.

Poppy Appeal says thanks

AS you were about to go to press last Wednesday, you kindly made room in The GEM to report the result of the Poppy Appeal collection in the Cowbridge and adjoining villages.

The magnificent sum of £7,351 is just over £500 up on last year and demonstrates the concern of the public for the

welfare of our Servicemen and women and their families.

May I now through your letters column, and on behalf of the Royal British Legion, thank all involved; shopkeepers who had trays of poppies on their premises, individuals who stood on the High Street with collecting boxes, those who put money in them, and the staff of Lloyds TSB who counted it.

Len Taylor,
Hon Poppy Appeal organiser for Cowbridge

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!

We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'Not a radical solution for the Welsh economy'

global recession.

Coun Traherne also argues that 'business rates discourage innovation, enterprise and entrepreneurial activity' and claims it is no wonder that businesses are struggling and that unemployment, particularly among our young people, is increasing month on month.

This appears to be his argument to abolish ALL business rates!

Therefore, major companies, who support this Westminster

Government, some of whom also supported the Tories' cut of National Insurance to employers (not employees) will snap at the chance of not paying business rates – and increase their profits, even further, at our expense.

He can't have it both ways and I would argue that this Con-Dem Government is making it worse not better.

However, the reason I write is not only to highlight the inconsistency, but to disagree with his following comments that all business rates should be 'abolished'.

That would be very nice for the multinationals and the big businesses that support the Tory Party and would lose the economy millions of pounds across the country.

The business rates, which are set by the Independent Valuation Office, are paid via the council to the Westminster

Government and the council gets a proportion back within its Rate Support Grant currently 75 per cent of its income. So if there were no business rates the amount of money the Government pays the council would be considerably reduced and could only be made up by increasing the council tax paid by the residents of the Vale.

I do not think that would be good for the Vale residents and I am sure I am not alone in thinking that. Perhaps the Conservatives prefer to protect rich business friends instead of council tax payers, who are already suffering in this

Coun Neil Moore, Vale County Borough Council (Leader, Labour Group, and councillor for the Cadoc ward)

Dog poo plea

WHY do so many Cowbridge residents allow their dogs to continually foul our pavements, especially along Broadway in front of Y Bont Faen and Ysgol Iolo Morganwg schools?

Small children (and their own neighbours and friends) will be walking though poo left by their dogs?

Some of the culprits must be among readers of The GEM, so if you are, please stop being so selfish and anti-social, and stop allowing your dogs foul on the pavement.

As a community, we need to clean up our act. Residents must know who among their neighbours are allowing their dogs to foul on pavements.

We need to make our environment a healthy place for our children. Margaret Lowe, Llanblethian

Ty Hafan's 'thank you'
ON behalf of the children, young people and families who depend on Ty Hafan for comfort, care and support, thank you for your kind donation of £1,736.28, being the proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets at the 2011 Cowbridge Food Festival.

Ty Hafan is not part of the health service and in 2010-2011 received just 13 per cent statutory funding towards more than £3 million to provide care and support to life-limited families in Wales.

Your gift will make a world of difference to life-limited children and young people and will help ensure they make the most of the precious time they have left with their families, however short that may be. Thank you for caring.

Frank Ady
(Head of business and community, Ty Hafan

INDEPENDENTS GIVE CHOICE

IREFER to the letter 'Democracy not diktat', (The GEM, November 10) from a Labour Party activist attacking presumed Independent candidates.

This time it's John Drysdale, Peterston Super Ely, who claims to be the Labour Party candidate for Illytd. Strange, I thought the opposition party was supposed to confront the ruling party, and not some Independent – who may or may not be a future candidate.

He probably realises that support for Independent councillors is on the increase, and traditional parties have not done any favours for Barry.

Independents are one way of giving people

more choice. They can respond to the local community in a way that serves the people's interests and have no worries about the shackles that come with a party political career.

Independents are not dominated by a party ruling bloc. However, they have a lot more of a view on local issues and are allowed to speak out whenever a problem arises, without having to ask the party leader first!

They generally believe national concerns do not translate to the local scene, and that voting Independent will send a strong message to the Vale Council.

People are fed up with the same-old party politicians and their tribal behaviour. It's time for change.

Jeffrey Heathfield
(FocusBARRY Supporter)

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL DECEMBER 8)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20–25 minutes later.

DATE	TIME	Ht	TIME	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
01 Thur	10.28	8.9	22.51	8.2
02 Fri	11.21	8.4	23.43	7.9
03 Sat	00.55	7.7	12.21	7.9
04 Sun	01.57	7.7	13.29	7.8
05 Mon	03.09	8.1	14.35	7.9
06 Tues	04.03	8.5	15.31	8.4
07 Wed	04.44	8.8	16.22	8.7
08 Thur	04.44	8.8	17.05	8.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

JEYANNE IS OFF TO ORLANDO...

Barry pupil's 'Perfect Model' title leads to centre stage!

RIGHT: Jeyanne Wiltshire – off to join American parade.

A BARRY teenager is to take centre stage in a New Year parade at Orlando, Florida.

Bryn Hafren pupil, Jeyanne Wiltshire, aged 16, won the title of 'Europe's Perfect Cover Model' which not only

led to the trans-Atlantic trip, but also a magazine from page.

Jeyanne, who is in year-11 and studying for her GCSEs, told The GEM: "On October 30, I took part in a pageant at the Porthcawl Pavilion.

"First, we did rehearsals – then in the competition there were three rounds.

"There was a fashion round, a bikini round and an evening wear round. We also had to answer questions posed by the judges."

Jeyanne won the title 'Europe's Perfect Cover Model', and now she is



No change in the school crossing patrols welcomed

GOVERNORS of Dinas Powys Infants School said this week they were delighted to learn that no changes to the school crossing patrol provision in the Vale are likely to be implemented for the next 20 months at least.

In a letter to Jill Davies, chair of governors, the Vale Council's head of planning and transportation, Rob

Thomas, stated that no progress on the review of patrol sites would be made until the middle of 2012.

The council's desire to consult on the terms of a policy for the school crossing patrol service meant that it was unlikely that any changes would be implemented until September 2013.

"The governors were pleased to learn that they would be fully consulted on this serious issue," Jill Davies commented.

in demand to make personal appearances.

This Saturday, she is scheduled to switch on the Christmas lights in Llantwit Major. It will

mean a busy weekend because she works part-time on Saturdays and Sundays at Cardiff Ice Rink.

Perhaps the most exciting consequence of winning the competition in Porthcawl has been the trip to America.

"I will be representing Europe in the Citrus Parade in downtown Orlando. It's very exciting because it will be a new experience and an opportunity to meet new people.

"As a result of winning the 'cover model' title, I will also be on the front cover of a US mag-

azine which will be launched in the UK shortly – Supermodel Unlimited."

One of the pleasures of becoming well known is that Jeyanne is able to publicise causes close to her heart and she added: "I want to highlight 'Karen's Cause', which I am supporting.

"If people would like to get involved, they can find information on what is happening via Facebook."

Karen's Cause was founded by friends of Karen Holroyd, who wanted to help her get vital Cyberknife treatment in her battle against cancer.

More information is available at the website: www.karenscause.co.uk

£246 cash boost for beach clean-up group



FRIENDS of Barry Beaches have been given a £246 cash boost by Keep Wales Tidy.

FoBB co-ordinator, Rob Curtis reported:

"Every month, the eco-volunteers of Friends of Barry Beaches meet up on one of Barry's five main beaches and remove as much litter as possible, while also ensuring as much as possible is recycled. Their ages range from eight to 80, but they all share one dream: to protect our marine environment and keep our beautiful beaches clean and litter-free."

"If people would like to get involved, they can find information on what is happening via Facebook."

"Karen's Cause was founded by friends of Karen Holroyd, who wanted to help her get vital Cyberknife treatment in her battle against cancer.

This vital cash support of £246 will allow our group to purchase vital tools and equipment. Our next beach

clean will be on Monday, December 26, meeting at the Knap beach at the earlier time of 2.30pm due to the winter light levels."

ABOVE:
FoBB chairman Rob Curtis; treasurer Claire Curtis and group secretary, Verity Alley.

Meeting called on museum plea

A SPECIAL meeting has been called tomorrow, (December 2) to consider a request to convert the former Grade II listed hydraulic pump house at Barry Waterfront into a museum.

It will be held at Barry Civic Offices at 5.30pm and two local historical groups The Vale Heritage

Centre Coalition and Friends of Barry History, will give their views.

Independent councillor, Richard Bertin, who said he had called for the matter to be considered, commented: "The pump house would be a perfect place for a museum

"I hope that full consideration will be given to housing a much-needed museum at this site.

"Members of the public are most welcome to attend."

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Tandoori Thali	£8.50

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Mutter-paneer	£4.50

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Chicken Tikka cooked in a variety of fresh green herbs, peas, green chillies and green beans.

Dali Palak Murgh £5.95

A tantalising combination of grilled chicken, spinach, yellow lentils and fresh garlic.

Murgh Kohlapuri (s) £5.95

Hot and spicy chicken dish prepared with turmeric, cumin, coriander and green chillies.

Mango Delight (n) £5.95

Chicken Tikka in a mild almond nut analphonso mango flavoured sauce.

Subz Miloni (v) £4.95

Spiced vegetables, served in spinach, coriander and mint gravy.

(n) contains nuts (s) Spicy (v) vegetarian

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ABOVE: Holton Primary School science club at the British Airways Maintenance facility.

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SCHOOL'S SCIENCE CLUB IS A 'SOAR-AWAY SUCCESS'...

YEAR-6 children at Holton Primary School Science Club have been very busy lately – learning all about flight.

During the last few weeks, they have been designing and making planes for time and flight duration challenges, along with the study of propulsion, using balloons and air-pressure rockets.

Holton Primary were the first school in the county to visit the British Airways Maintenance Cardiff facility at Rhoose.

Pupils were taken on an exciting tour, which culminated in climbing aboard a Jumbo Jet and a Boeing 777 aircraft.

They enjoyed exploring the flight deck, learning about the servicing and maintenance and finding out about becoming an apprentice engineer at British Airways.

The children were commended on their behaviour and scientific knowledge of flight. The staff and pupils

thoroughly enjoyed their tour and are very grateful to the personnel involved in arranging and leading the visit.

AG

Third eco flag for school

CHILDREN and staff at Gladstone Primary School have every reason to celebrate, after recently renewing their Fairtrade status and receiving their third eco flag.

This shows the continued commitment to sustaining and enhancing the Gladstone school environment. The children have worked hard to improve their outside area, including building a greenhouse out of plastic bottles and designing and making a mural from bottle top lids.

The school, led by a passionate eco-committee made up of children and staff, continues to recycle and strongly promotes Fairtrade," they commented.

"He suffered very

nasty injuries. This was deliberate violence yet again in one of our towns or cities.

"For no good reason, you involved yourself with a victim you didn't even know. It's clear you have a short fuse and a nasty streak when you've been drinking."

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said that on the night of June 11, there was a melee and a fracas in Llantwit Major town square.

Robert Carter (23) of Chapel Close, St Athan, was jailed for six months after pleading guilty to wounding Dean Kayes.

Said Judge Stephen Hopkins: "Fighting broke out, fuelled by alcohol. Without any warning or provocation, you delivered a punch of significant force, which knocked Mr Kayes off his feet and knocked him out.

Mr Kayes became involved with another man, but Carter ran at them and in five seconds punched Mr Kayes with a single blow to the side of the head.

He fell to the ground bleeding, and at one point was kicked. He remembers nothing of the incident, and he came to in the Princess of Wales Hospital.

Mr Greenwood said he suffered injuries which needed 10 stitches.

When arrested, Carter said he had been drinking throughout the day.

Earlier, he said, someone had been staring at him and his girlfriend had been pushed.

He said he threw the punch to defend a friend.

His counsel, James Evans, said: "He was misguided doing what he did. The offence was towards the lower end of the scale."

AJ SICLUNA

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Councillor's fears over job prospects for people in Vale

A Vale councillor says he fears for future job prospects in the area, with maintenance work on VC10 aircraft due to come to an end at St Athan in February.

British Airways, which employs more than 1,000 people at Cardiff Airport, is looking to expand its engineering operations, and there are hopes it will look at using the military base but nothing has been confirmed yet.

Llanwit Major councillor Gwyn John said unless national politicians on both sides of the border were able to bring something new to St Athan, future employment prospects were bleak. "We badly need jobs in the Vale area. Liam Fox was due to

Report by TIM CHAPMAN

come down to meet community representatives before Christmas on what was planned at St Athan.

"He has jumped ship now and we are now four weeks away from Christmas and nothing has happened."

In the summer, following the axing of plans for the £14 billion Defence Academy, Liam Fox, indicated that St Athan's role would be expanded at some stage in the future.

The work was concerned with 'special operations' which meant there were restrictions on what information could be released.

However, Mr Fox resigned as Defence Secretary in mid-October. He was suc-

ceeded by Philip Hammond.

Now Coun John wonders whether that visit will take place before the turn of the year.

"Metrix was killed off,

the VC10 work comes to an end early next year – I worry about what is going to happen to the technical people with those skills.

"The only way the country is going to get going again is if there are jobs which mean people are paying tax.

"I'd welcome BAMC, but where is the MoD?"

Coun John said he felt that the Cabinet in London didn't understand what things were like at ground level.

"They are out of touch. What do they understand about having to get up at six o'clock in the morning and work physically?"

"Now we have the fear of work diminishing in the area."

He added that the Welsh Government, having chosen St Athan as an enterprise zone, needed to be forthcoming about what would be located there.

"Let's hear what the plans for it are," he said.

A Welsh Government spokesperson said, that significant progress had been made over the past two months, adding: "The Business Minister has told plenary she hopes to provide a further update on enterprise zones for Assembly Members before Christmas.

"Meanwhile detailed

negotiations are continuing with the UK Government regarding enterprise zones and the use of the St Athan site."

The local MP Alun Cairns told The GEM

there were "considerable plans" for St Athan.

He said: "I am excited about the prospects, but the nature of the plans make public communication difficult.

"Dr Liam Fox agreed to come to brief community leaders in private and I am waiting for a date from Phillip Hammond MP."

"I am scheduled to meet the Defence Secretary shortly to discuss the next steps.

There has also been a change in the leadership at the site, involving both the special and regular forces. Again, these issues need to settle down."

Mr Cairns went on: "I am also involved in meetings with the MoD over the release of some of the assets that they have options over, in order to potentially free them up for the private sector."

The MP claimed the Welsh Government had made the enterprise zone structure in Wales complicated, which wasn't helpful, but insisted: "People should be rest assured that a lot of work is being conducted on site at St Athan and at the MoD in London to make way for the changes.

"An expansion of the Special Forces is just one element. The MoD has other plans that will make St Athan critical to the UK's defences."

Has Drop-In Centre been too successful?

AS a resident on the Thompson Street estate, I take issue with Mr Paul Roberts' comments regarding 'Putting Residents First' in The GEM's 'Forgotten Estate' story last week.

Many years ago, I would have agreed with this statement. But sadly, over the last few years, Newydd Housing Association has not listened to the residents on our estate.

Queries go unanswered, which in many cases has led to residents seeking help from our local councillors and our

Assembly Member. Letters and phone calls don't get answered.

The Drop-In Centre has given advice and support when residents have felt let down by Newydd Housing Association.

The Drop-In Centre has not stopped Newydd Housing Association or Community First from working on our estate – they did that themselves and it was their choice.

Has the Drop-In Centre been too successful in working with the community? Is that the problem?

J Lockwood, Barry.



Castleland houses get a new look

LEFT: Sheryl and Brian Jones with Vale of Glamorgan Council cabinet member for Housing and Community Safety, Coun Paul Church.

WORK on the second phase of a scheme to bring a new lease of life to the Castleland area of Barry has begun.

The Vale Council is giving the area a facelift in an attempt to bring back confidence to the once thriving area, as part of a 12-year scheme, jointly funded by the Welsh Government.

The front of houses in was one of the first people to benefit from the Casteland Renewal Area facelift. They are in line for a makeover, with up to 346 shares with husband Brian, 67, a retired council worker, to be completed this financial year.

Contractors have already completed 68 houses in part of Merthyr Street and Greenwood Street. Sheryl Jones, 63, a retired bakery worker, has lived in Greenwood Street for 32 years and

seeing their home will encourage other eligible homeowners to agree to have the work carried out.

Work has now started on sprucing up the front of properties at the top end of Merthyr Street and Belvedere Crescent – around 72 houses.

Home owners can choose to have their wooden windows replaced with double-glazed UPVC and wooden doors swapped for a more secure type.

There was a 100 per cent take-up from the first phase, which also included the opportunity to have renewed fascia boards, gutters and down pipes and re-rendering or cleaned and repainted stone front.

Other streets identified for the £1.75m makeover this year are 96 houses in Coronation Street and Fryatt Street; 36 in Bendrick Road and 73 houses in Kingsland Crescent.

For information, call the renewal area team on 01446 709379 or call into the office on, 198 Holton Road.

Regeneration at Upper Holton Road

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

He added: "I am very pleased that some of the traders have now decided that after Christmas they will look to formally set up the group. I genuinely feel that this group will provide support for all traders in the local area."

Coun Elmore pointed out that regeneration of Upper Holton Road was "long over-due".

He explained: "For years the area has been subject to under investment with many shops

closing down and being converted into bed-sits and flats, or simply left derelict so the plans currently being considered and shortly to be consulted upon are very welcome indeed."

"I along with councillors Bronwen Brooks and Pamela Drake, have already met with officers to go through the regeneration plans and they look excellent."

"We hope they will breathe new life into the Upper Holton Road area giving support to traders."

NEW @ GORDON BENNETT!

Thursday Night The Weekend Starts Here
Henric T-taps Road Show

The Ultimate Music Quiz featuring "Spot the Intro"
It's . . . "THE DISCO WITH A DIFFERENCE"

Friday Night, Themed Nights
for the run up to Christmas and the New Year

December 9th "Hill Billies & Country Bumpkins"
Magners Promotion Night £1.50 a pint, plus Prize Give Aways

December 16th  "Pink Ladies and T-Birds" 

December 23rd "Mother Christmas Fancy Dress"
PRIZES FOR THE BEST BEHAVED - HAVE YOU BEEN GOOD?

Saturday Nights - The Gordon Bennett's Midnight Hour with DJ Nige and The Battle of the Sexes

SUNDAY NIGHT "KARAOKE"

It's back by Popular Demand with Mistar H-tee's 4 Minutes of Fame

Monday Night is Poker Night with Mark "The FINGERS" Jeffreys



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VALE COUNCIL'S WORK ON SCHEME IS COMMENDED



Anna Prescott, Royal Town Planning Institute Cymru chair; Jon Fox, chair of the judging panel; John Dent, the Vale Council's major projects manager, and Gareth Williams of NLP, sponsors of the ward.

THE Vale Council's work on the Llantwit Major town centre regeneration scheme has won a commendation at the Royal Town Planning Institute's 'Wales Planning Awards'.

Coun Jeff James, the cabinet member for planning and transportation, said: "I am delighted that the institute has recognised the quality of the development, not only in terms of the design of the scheme, but also in terms of the quality of the public realm."

"This is recognition of the good work of the council as a local planning authority in promoting beneficial, good quality regeneration proposals."

"It also demonstrates the value of working in partnership with all stakeholders both before and during the formal application process."

Coun Rhodri Traherne, the cabinet member for economic development and regeneration, added: "This scheme is an excellent example of how the Vale Council seeks to bring forward regeneration."

The council worked closely with Llantwit Major Town Council and the landowners, providing technical advice, guidance and funding to allow the scheme to be brought forward."

CAOS FESTIVE COFFEE COWBRIDGE Amateur Operatic Society is holding its Christmas coffee morning with tombola, raffle, stalls, competitions, gifts and prizes on Saturday, December 3, from 10am- 12.30pm at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall.

For more information, telephone 01446 713110.

Silver badges awarded to RNLI stalwarts



TWO long-serving members of Barry RNLI branch were presented (above) with silver badges by Vale AM Jane Hutt at the Barry Lifeboat Station.

Jane Hutt said that she was "delighted" to visit the station to present awards to Gordon Mudford and Jennie Williams, treasurer and secretary of the branch, which raises funds for the lifeboat crews.

WI's craft event

GLAMORGAN WI held a spectacular craft event in Cowbridge Town Hall last week when chairman Carolyn Davies welcomed locals and visitors to the event, including local MP Alan Cairns and WI member Janet Jones, whose famous campaign against the use of plastic bags bore her slogans 'Be Fantastic, Don't Use Plastic' and the humorous 'Take an Old Bag Shopping.'

There were many and varied stalls, including 39-year-old Samantha Morgan's cupcake stall, which sold out in record time!

'Where is Dinas Powys' share of investment?'

A RECENT tragic accident on Barry Road and an ensuing letter from a 12-year-old Barry resident, combined with decades of lack of investment in appropriate road planning, prompts me to ask my council, where is our share of investment for Dinas Powys?

I have personally campaigned for a safe cycle path, especially for the western end of Dinas Powys, for many years, and in that time we have seen tragic, preventable deaths due to a lack of safe cycle/footpaths around Dinas Powys.

I have also pushed hard for a new junction to enable us to scrap the unsafe Cross Common road bridge but the answer keeps coming back, 'there is no money'.

I, along with my fellow Dinas Powys Vale councillors, produced a traffic plan for the whole village, calling for, among many other measures, a 20 mph speed limit.

That was four years ago and, although submitted year after year, has been unsuccessful for full funding from the Welsh Government.

I was the deputy chairman for the steering committee for a bridge

over the River Ely, (eventually becoming the Pont-y-Werin bridge), until the change in council from coalition to Conservative in 2008, when I was replaced by Coun Jeff James, despite my request to continue.

I have been most disappointed in the lack of progress for a safe cyclepath from Barry through Dinas Powys to that bridge since the green light was given to build the Pont-y-Werin bridge.

All we have got is a 400 metre bus-lane which, although a small benefit to cyclists and pedestrians, is widely regarded as a waste of public money.

I shall continue, with my Plaid colleagues, to press for a fairer share of

our tax money for these essential improvements and would suggest that, for example, instead of a £1.6 million budget for vehicle replacement, our cabinet should take some of that money and start to repay the Dinas Powys community with a safe cycle/footpath for at least the western end, and a much needed new junction for Cross Common road.

This will mean an end to flooding for the residents of St Cadocs Avenue and no more unnecessary pedestrian deaths on that extremely dangerous stretch of road.

Coun Chris Williams, Chairman Dinas Powys Community Council and Vale councillor for Dinas Powys ward.

Politicians are invited to address 'Friends' group

THE next meeting of Barry & Vale FoE will be on December 6, in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry.

The rich nations of the world, meeting in South Africa, are trying to avoid their climate change duties, while our Welsh Assembly Government and the Coalition Government are still supporting private finance initiatives (PFIs), to incinerate our waste and add to global warming.

At last month's group meeting, Eluned Parrott, Liberal Democrat AM, agreed to take up Barry & Vale's environmental concerns.

Alun Cairns, MP, has been invited to the meeting on December 6.

Other politicians will be invited to meetings of the group in the New Year.

Keith Stockdale
Barry & Vale FoE co-ordinator

Reaching out to carers

in the Vale of Glamorgan

Friday 2nd December 2011

Do you look after someone?

Find out more from the organisations below about support, advice and information that is available in the Vale...



Carer and family support service for serious and enduring mental illness. www.hafal.org 07989 473375 or 01446 733331



Working with local authorities and voluntary organisations to provide carers with better support and information. 029 2033 5468 or sue.barrow@wales.nhs.uk



Support for those with late-onset dementia and depression (and their carers) including support groups and more. 029 2070 0057



Free and confidential advice, information, support and advocacy for unpaid carers at the Carers' Centre. 029 2022 1439 or 029 2022 1421 Email - reception@cvcarers.co.uk



Ask for DIRECTIONS, a free guide to mental health services in Cardiff and the Vale. www.cvhdp.org.uk 029 2022 2200



Looking After Me. A self management course for carers, 2.5 hours a week. www.eppwales.org 029 2035 0620



Supporting parents, carers and relatives of disabled children and adults with a learning disability. www.parentsfed.org 029 2022 7800 Email - admin@parentsfed.org



Provides a range of support to young carers between 16 and 25 years of age in the Vale of Glamorgan. 02920577300 Email - sparflit@cardiffvalecrossroads.org.uk



Vale of Glamorgan Social Services for Carers Assessments and information about other services & support. 01446 700111 Email CIV@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/carers

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Now showing at a church near you, the five deadly sins of Llancarfan village!



Archdeacon Peggy counts our sins!

Thefts in Barry

A TOTAL of nine people have been arrested concerning thefts in Barry.

They were among 13 arrests carried out by police as the result of information provided by CCTV operators in the Vale.

On November 22, police made an arrest for alleged possession of drugs with intent to supply, and driving offences.

There was another arrest concerning theft at

Holton Road on November 26, and one on the same day for alleged vehicle interference at Island Road, Barry.

On November 25, police arrested a person for alleged drink driving on Market Street, while officers arrested someone in connection with breaching a curfew and vehicle interference at Gladstone Road on November 23.

CCTV contacted the police on 48 occasions.

LAST Friday, November 25, saw a party to celebrate the triumphant completion of the first phase of sponsored conservation work in St Cadoc's Church, Llancarfan, which has now revealed scary new additions to the famous, recently-discovered 15th century wall paintings.

This autumn, conservators uncovered not only one of the largest, most spectacular George & the Dragon tableaux in the UK, but now also five grim and hair-raising Deadly Sins.

They peek from the church walls, along with assorted devils, to warn Vale generations of the fearful consequences of falling prey to their allure.

Over 100 people joined the party to mark the end of the first stage of work, and to make the personal acquaintance of Greed, Avarice, Lust,

Sloth, & Pride, who (at least pictorially!) were taking a bow in the village for the first time in more than 460 years.

Tantalisingly, two of the sins still remain beneath the estimated 27 layers of limewash. Anger and Envy still lurk hidden from sight, awaiting their turn to menace (or entice) the congregation of Llancarfan.

Their tempers, one imagines, were not improved by exclusion from Friday's fun.

Among the dignitaries and guests who did attend was Jennifer Stewart, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund, Wales.

She warmly welcomed and praised both the scale of the project, and the community's involvement and interest over the last three years.

The HLF has been the major funder for this project so far, along with

Cadw and the Waterloo Foundation.

The chairman of the conservation committee, Sam Smith, has commented: "Even before this summer's new revelations, St Cadoc's has welcomed a stream of visitors, eager to see the paintings emerge. The Vale is rapidly becoming a fascinating destination for history and art enthusiasts."

Priest in Charge of Llancarfan, the Venerable Peggy Jackson, said: "We hope and trust that we shall be able to reveal the two additional sins as part of a second phase of restoration, for which funding is now being sought."

"This phase would also include architectural work and conservation of the Chancel's remarkable reredos screen."

Roll on, Phase 2!
PENNY FELL

PRISON INMATE WAS 'SLASHED' IN A RAZOR BLADE ATTACK

AN INMATE of Parc Prison, Bridgend, suffered serious injuries when a fellow prisoner attacked him, armed with a toothbrush in which razor blades had been embedded.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that 19-year-old Michael Hancock had 10 stitches put into a cut to his left cheek and injuries to his left hand and left leg.

His attacker, Isleigh Pavis (20) who lives in London E5, admitted wounding with intent and was given a sentence for public protection.

It was directed that he serve a minimum of five years before being considered for parole.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said Hancock was serving two-and-a-half years for robbery.

Pavis was serving five years for wounding with intent from a violent disorder and stabbing an 11-year-old boy.

The two men, said Mr

Greenwood, had been "quite friendly", and associated happily.

Mr Greenwood told

the court that Hancock

had said he knew of no

reason for the attack but

REPORT
by
AJ SICLUNA

described Pavis as a "strange character".

He was taking a shower when the curtains suddenly opened and Pavis attacked him.

The court was told that Hancock later said: "His eyes looked crazy."

Hancock tried to get out of the shower, but slipped and fell, with Pavis continuing to slash at his leg.

Prison officers raced to his assistance.

They had seen Pavis

advancing on his naked

victim, and slashing

downwards.

Mr Greenwood said

that one prison officer

had said: "It was a terrible attack, and unprovoked. I had never seen anything like it."

Pavis was shouting: "See what you get." The victim had a gaping wound to his face.

Mr Greenwood said the victim had been taken completely by surprise, and didn't see the attack coming.

Hancock had been deliberately targeted and there had been some planning.

Carl Harrison, defending, said: "Pavis had been having a difficult time in prison. He was regularly teased and wound up."

"He was brave to plead guilty to such an offence."

Dyspraxia meeting

THE NEXT meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be on Monday, December 5 at 7.30 in the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU.

Tourettes) and their parents and carers by providing advice and information as well as an opportunity to exchange experiences.

The Vale Dyspraxia Support Group operates a 24hr help and advice line on 01446 738945 and a website, www.vdsog.org.uk and also runs social activities and a laptop loan programme.

'Big Wrap' Christmas appeal for children

CHURCHES across the Vale are busy collecting toys and gifts – for local children and young people in need.

Since 2007, Coastlands Family Church has worked in partnership with the Vale Children and Young People's Services to provide support for children who might otherwise receive little or nothing for Christmas:

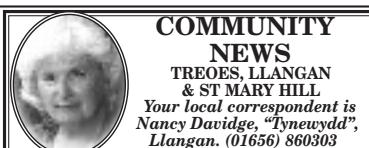
Susan Lloyd-Selby, the Big Wrap coordinator, explained: "We are delighted to be running the initiative again this year, in partnership with local churches and the Vale Foodbank.

"Last year, our volunteers wrapped and delivered presents to 125 children in the Vale and provided hampers to 50 young people.

In the current economic climate we are anticipating even more demand this year so we really hope people will support us."

Local people can get involved by donating toys and gifts (which should be new and unwrapped), as well as Selection Boxes and sweets to the collection point which has been set up in the reception area of the Civic Offices in Holton Road, Barry.

The collection point in the Civic Offices will be open until Friday, December 9 and donations can also be taken to Coastlands Family Church, Tennyson Road (9am-2pm Wed-Fri). Please contact Susan Lloyd-Selby with any queries: sllloydselby@yahoo.com or tel. 01446 410782.



COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Wine tips

ANOTHER financially successful and enthralling Eisteddfod fundraising event took place at Treoes Community Hall recently, hosted by Mr Brian Churchill, a cheese and wine enthusiast.

He demonstrated to an attentive audience that red wine is often not the best accompaniment to cheese.

Sweet white wine and even sherry are appropriate to some cheeses.

All participants became 'bon vivre' and went home inculcated with gastronomic appreciation!

A big thank you to the sponsors, Waitrose, and a select cheese retailer from Chester. The event raised £425 for Eisteddfod 2012.

Another fundraising event will take place in the Star Inn, Treoes, on Monday, December 12 at 8pm; tickets £5, to include tasty morsels.

Telephone Mary Crandon on 01656 861933 if you wish to attend.

Lack of support

THIS year's get-

together for the retired folk of Llangan, St Mary Hill and Ruthin was extremely disappointing for the hard-working hall committee who put so much effort into making the hall attractive.

The people who chose not to support this annual event missed a fine performance by the Llangan school choir with solo harp and duet performance by boys from the school.

A big thank you to headteacher Mary Noyes, for all the extra time she contributes to the enhancement of the school and to the many local events.

The entertainment continued with a guitarist and female vocalist.

Vestry

ceremony

A CEREMONY to mark the opening of the restored vestry at St Cannas, Llangan, will take place on Sunday, December 4, at 3pm when Dr Barry Morgan will officiate.

Nativity play at Amelia Trust

THE AMELIA Trust will be performing a Nativity play around the site on December 3-4, at 5.30pm each evening. Refreshments will be supplied after the performance and tickets are £11 from the farm office (01446 782030). Wrap up warm and bring a torch!

Dinas Windows Christmas Sale

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Would you like to learn a new skill or brush up on an existing one? Then come and join us on one of the workshops held at

The Bead Room
here at
Boxes & Busts.

In conjunction with Bezel we are holding a series of workshops weekly.

Chain Maille
Beginners Chain Maille is the first in a sequence of workshops in this wonderful craft. Each workshop usually consists of two weeks taught in the form of tutorials. Included in the workshop fee will be all materials needed as well as the use of the tools during the workshop.

Fall colour detailed instructions are also included.

Beginners Jewellery Making with Jo
Jo is owner of Mrs Jo Bangles and is a long standing friend here at Boxes & Busts.

Precious Metal Clay
Come and spend a wonderful couple of hours learning about silver clay and go away with your very first silver creation. We will teach you all the basics and many useful tips for working with this wonderful medium.

You will learn methods for vacuforming and casting clay, as well as finishing, polishing and how to add dimensions to your work.

Included in the metal clay used to complete the projects at the workshop are use of all tools and equipment at the workshop.

To find out more visit www.boxesandbusts.co.uk, call 01446 782139 or visit our stand at the Craft Fair at Style Gardens in December.

Wire Work
Come and spend an morning or evening learning about wirework. We will teach you all the basics and many useful tips for working with wire.

You will learn the basic of wire working using copper or coloured wire and when you are ready, move on to silver wire to create your first pieces. Included in all wire is needed to complete the class lessons and use of tools during the workshop.

WANTED POSTERS WERE CIRCULATED' **'Flying Vet harassed forensic psychiatrist' – court is told**

A CONSULTANT forensic psychiatrist has told a hearing at Cardiff Magistrates Court that he felt "uncomfortable and unsafe" when a former patient began circulating posters of him with a photograph, stating that he was "wanted, dead or alive".

The man alleged to be responsible, Vale 'Flying Vet', Maurice Kirk, was heard in a pub offering £30,000 for the address of Dr Tegwyn Williams.

Mr Kirk (66), formerly of St Donats, who now lives in Brittany, has pleaded not guilty to harassing Dr Williams.

**Report by
AJ SICLUNA**

director of the Caswell Clinic, Bridgend, and had known Mr Kirk for two years.

In July, he said, he was sent the "wanted dead or alive" poster. The poster also said there would be a reward for information about Dr Williams, with a contact address and Kirk's telephone number.

Said Dr Williams: "I am aware the posters were disseminated in Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan, and the Bristol and Bridgend areas."

He added: "They make me feel extremely uncomfortable and

unsafe. This is because someone who clearly has powerful negative feelings against me has tried to track down my address."

He said the posters interfered with his ability to do his job and he had been advised not to go to the clinic because of Mr Kirk's behaviour, which meant he could not see his patients.

Dr Williams said he had been qualified for 20 years, and in the past had psychiatrically assessed Mr Kirk, and Mr Kirk had disagreed with his conclusions.

On five occasions, he said, he had provided Mr Kirk with his medical records.

Detective Chief Inspector Mark

Lammerton, said that on July 1, he saw a red Land Rover parked in Kings Square, Barry, and on it were posters indicating that Dr Williams was "wanted" and another poster referred to Barbara Wilding, a former Chief Constable of South Wales.

Mr Kirk, he said, was sitting in the front of the vehicle.

A social worker at the Caswell Clinic, Amanda Watkins, said that on August 16, she went to the Plough and Harrow pub in Monkash and outside saw posters of Dr Williams.

"I took one because I was concerned," she said.

On August 24, she said she went to the same pub with friends where she saw Mr Kirk offering customers £10,000 for the address of Dr Williams.

"People just ignored him," she said. But, she added, as the evening progressed he "upped the amount of the reward" to £10,000.

"Again, no-one took any notice of him," she said.

(THE CASE
CONTINUES)

Public service walkout

THE strike by public workers on Wednesday, November 30, had a serious effect on services in the Vale.

Schools were a major casualty of the action with the vast majority of them closed. Four primary schools at Colcot, Wenvee, Y Bont Faen in Cowbridge and St Andrews Major in Dinas Powys were partially open.

In total, 44 primary schools were closed and 10 comprehensive schools which Vale pupils attend (two of them in Cardiff) were also closed.

The Vale Council said it was working to protect essential services.

Social services was operating on a restricted basis; however, libraries were closed.

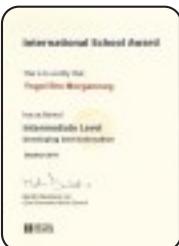
Most black bag and kitchen waste collections in

the Vale were due to go ahead. Five out of the scheduled nine recycling rounds were due to be completed, but there was no recycling service in Penarth.

Llanwit Major Leisure Centre and Penarth Leisure Centre were closed, but the other Vale leisure facilities were open.

Public toilets and parks also remained open.

Newyddion/ Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg/news



SPECIAL EVENING

An exciting opportunity to experience some of the learning activities on offer to year-7 at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg was an integral part of a recent year-7 parents' evening.

Parents often contact the school to ask for constructive and practical advice on how to help their children with their work, and in response to this a series of inter-active workshops were held in order to provide the necessary guidance for parents to help their children with their learning in secondary school.

It was a resounding success, with parents choosing between several workshops: Safe Surfing (using the internet safely); Read On! (encouraging your child to read); Study skills to fit learning profiles; and Assessments, reports and targets make sense – as well as discussing progress with form tutors.

College appeal

CARDIFF and Vale College is looking for host families in Barry to provide a 'home from home' for students from the United Arab Emirates.

The UAE students will be studying aeronautical engineering at the college's International Centre for Aerospace Training (ICAT) at Cardiff Airport and are likely to be at the college for at least two years.

Contact Paul Denman in CAVC (Vale sites) Student Services on 01446 725008.

School award

The school has recently received the 'International School Intermediate Award' awarded by the British Council, to congratulate the school on the excellent work that is being done across a range of departments to promote pupils' awareness of European and worldwide cultures and issues.

Some of the activities embedded in the curriculum over the last 12 months include a year-6 languages transition day, a year-8 visit to Paris, a year-9 exchange visit to Germany, a year-10 e-mail exchange with a school in Corsica, a year-12 languages day, as well as exchange visits by teachers to India.

What's in your bin?

Tel: 01446 700111 Email: visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

RECYCLING IN THE VALE GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Our Waste Management team share with you the success of the new recycling arrangements

Vale residents continue to be enthusiastic about recycling and composting as much of their waste as possible. An impressive improvement of approximately 11% is being predicted when comparing October 2010 to October 2011.

For October 2010, when just 19,996 homes were able to recycle kitchen waste and recycle a range of dry materials in separate containers, the Vale of Glamorgan's recycling and composting figures were 47% for the month.

Now, one year later, in October 2011, early estimations suggest a combined recycling figure of 58%. The difference is attributed to all 56,000 homes now able to access the full range of services, which include garden waste and recently introduced co-mingled (mixed) recycling.

Cabinet Member for Visible and Building Services Councillor Geoff Cox is thrilled with this excellent response from residents. He advised "To increase our performance by over 10% in the space of one year is certainly impressive. Now every resident can recycle food, paper, glass, cans, cardboard and plastic every week, we are certainly starting to see a big difference in our recycling and composting figures. I would like to personally thank every resident who cares enough to contribute and make a difference; I would urge our residents to keep up their concerted efforts."

Miles Punter Head of Visible Services at the Vale of Glamorgan Council said of the early performance, "Our figures are externally audited using Waste Data Flow (a monitoring system controlled by the Welsh Government); eventually a percentage for the entire financial year will be produced, taking into account data before co-mingling started on the 19th September 2011. If our residents continue with the trend shown, we estimate that an impressive end of financial year recycling and composting figure of 54% could be possible."

Miles continues, "Although it is early days, when you consider that by 2012-13 the Welsh Government require all Local Authorities to achieve a 52% figure, and by 2015-16 to achieve 58%, we are very excited that our residents look to be ahead of the game. I am particularly pleased that our initial figure for contamination, one of the main concerns with co-mingling is just 2.5%; this is excellent, and a testament to our residents. Furthermore, if this performance trend continues we could be soon hailed as one of the top performing Councils once more."

The Council's contractors, 'Biffa Waste Services' have a similar view on how well Vale residents are doing. Biffa has measured the first seven week's performance since the introduction of co-mingling and have compared this performance to the same period last year (when the previous source

separation system was in operation), they report over 40% more dry recycling coming into their Materials Recycling Facility in Cardiff from Vale collection vehicles – this is certainly remarkable.

Operational Manager for Waste Management & Cleaning Clifford Parish encourages residents who are not yet on board with recycling to start, he urges residents to recycle what they can over the Christmas period also, outlining, "Over the winter months our garden waste service operates on a ring and request basis, so our composting figures reduce because of gardening seasonality. It therefore becomes more important than ever for our residents to recycle extra materials over Christmas and New Year and use additional services such as our real Christmas tree collection, week commencing 9th January 2012."

For more information on waste management visit the Council's website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle, or telephone: 01446 700111, alternatively you can email: visible@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk



Don't forget to view our new film
"Co-mingling in the Vale" - visit
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle
Find out how the new scheme is going and what happens to your recycling after we take it away.



Young musicians hit right note with Rotary

ON November 23, club and area heats of the Rotary Young Musician competition were held in Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

The competition, organised by the Rotary Club of Llantwit Major, aims to provide a platform for encouraging the best local young instrumentalists to compete at the highest level.

The audience was treated to a very wide ranging programme of music. Cameron Hughes, who plays the French horn, played pieces by Strauss and Mozart. Clarinettist Katie Wynne also played a piece by Mozart and a tune by Witold Lutoslawski.

There were two flautists, Sara Friel who played pieces by Mozart and Honneger and Olivia Chester who played pieces by Gabriel Fauré and Tellermann. Charlotte Jenkins played pieces on her alto saxophone by Max Dubois and Georges Guillaud.

In third place came Catrin Howells on clarinet, who played the first movement of clarinet sonata number 2 (E flat) by

Johannes Brahms and the 2nd movement of the clarinet quintet by Mozart.

Sidharth Devalia came second on piano with Beethoven's Rondo 3rd movement Pathétique Sonata and 'Lowside Blues' by Joanna McGregor, two sharply contrasting pieces.

The unanimous winner of the competition was Hannah Clist, who played her cello with great skill and expressiveness. Her winning tunes were 'Kol Nidrei' by Max Bruch and Bach's Bourrée from his third suite.

While the judges were conferring, the audience was entertained by a group of four year-10 and 11 vocalists who sang a mixed programme of classical and light music.

The judges, Nic Treharne and Marilyn Davidson, commented on the very high standard achieved by competitors in this year's competition, a theme which was echoed by the president of Llantwit Major Rotary Club, Neville Farthing.



Young Musician winner Hannah Clist.



Young Musician second prize, Sidharth Devalia.

Young Musician third prize, Catrin Howells.



LINE-UP, ABOVE: The Young Musician competitors.

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Christmas 2011 in Barry...

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KING SQUARE, FRI 2 DECEMBER, 5:30PM - 8PM

Don't miss the giant illuminated winter wonderland birds, live music from 'All That Jazz' and 'Wonderbrass', street entertainers and performance fire shows from Flame On. The Christmas lights on the Square and the real Christmas Tree will be turned on at 7.30pm.

SANTA'S SNOW GROTTO

CENTRAL PARK, SAT 10 DECEMBER, 10AM - 3PM

For one day only, Santa and his grotto will be coming to town. The park will become a festive arena complete with snow, ice sculpting, play workshops and street entertainers, with live music from 'All That Jazz', 'The Bucket Band' and 'RAF St Althen Brass Band'.



For further details please call 01446 704737 or visit
www.visitthevale.com

Remembering Barry's GIs as the 70th anniversary of their 'invasion' draws near



THE NELSON WEDDING.

TODAY, there is very little visible evidence of the 'Friendly Invasion' of Americans to Barry during World War Two.

Their vast supply depot on the outskirts of the town, 'G-40', was built upon long ago by Midland Silicones, Dow Corning, BP and other industries. Their military camps at Barry Golf Course (Brynhill) and Wenveo (opposite the top of Pencoedtre Lane) have long been given over to housing or golf, or undergrowth.

Yet, back in 1944, there were literally thousands of 'Yanks', aka 'GIs,' blacks and whites, support soldiers and combat troops, 'over here' living in and close to Barry.

These men – and they were almost exclusively men – were here to make preparations for the liberation of Europe from Nazism.

June 1944 would see

many of them leaving south Wales for the 'far shore,' and the battle of Normandy. To many of them, their stay in Barry (and the United Kingdom generally)

must have seemed like the lull before the storm.

While these 'GIs'

were working with

British civilians on Barry Docks, or at the Supply Reserve Depot, Number Two (the SRD), or off duty in the pubs and clubs and cinemas, it was only natural that they would form relationships with local ladies.

During and after the war about 60 local women married Americans and became 'GI brides.'

My aunt, Thelma Toomey, was one, tying the knot with Sergeant Homer Copeland in June 1946.

Thelma, like most of the other war brides, moved to the USA and lived out her life there. Sadly, she made only three return visits – in 1960, 1986 and 1992.

On April 24, 1944,

Miss Betty Farmer and Captain Irving Peter

Nelson of the 863rd Ordnance Heavy

Automotive Maintenance Company

(!) which was busy

maintaining US vehicles at G-40, tied the knot.

This union would lead to other members of the Farmer family following Betty across 'the Pond.'

More about that, and other GI brides and their stories to come, as the 70th anniversary year approaches.

GLENN BOOKER



BETTY NELSON



THELMA COPELAND

NEWS IN BRIEF

COWBRIDGE and District Local History Society will meet on Friday, December 2 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

The sixth Don Wallis Memorial Lecture entitled 'The Joneses of Jesus: Oxford's Welsh Connections' will be delivered by Mark Davies, to be followed by mince pies and wine – all welcome!

Tabernacle coffee

TABERNACLE Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend will hold a 'coffee and mince pies morning' at Tabernacle Hall on Tuesday, December 6 from 10am-12pm; entrance £1 including coffee and mince pies (children admitted free).

Various stalls, proceeds towards the Samaritans and Water Aid.

Christmas Tree World

Situated on the A48, between Bonvilston and the five mile lane turn off



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Christmas tree festival brings a sense of magic to Cowbridge's Holy Cross Church



Record numbers of Christmas trees were on show in Holy Cross Church in Cowbridge last week as it staged its annual Christmas Tree Festival. The Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Andy Banks and his wife Gill (right) were at the opening of the event, which was held over three days (November 25-27).



ABOVE:
Just a few of the
beautifully decorated
trees on show in
the church.



New crematorium is officially opened



Vale MP Alun Cairns formally opened the new crematorium.

THE £4 million Vale of Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium was officially opened by Vale MP Alun Cairns, at a ceremony and dedication service on November 24.

Roadworks report
Overton Road at the junction with Trebeiferad, Llantwit Major – temporary traffic control.

The chapel can accommodate up to 96 people sitting, and a total of 200 people if some stand.

The crematorium is set in a 20 acre site.

People were welcomed on the day by the chairman of Memoria Ltd, Howard Hodgson.

Mr Cairns said: "I was honoured to be invited to formally open this new crematorium."

"Death is one of life's certainties but often many don't wish to talk about it.

"For many years, residents in the Vale have had to travel to Bridgend or Cardiff to say goodbye to their loved ones.

"Now, the Vale of Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium can provide a first-class, caring service in a tranquil setting for local residents in the Vale, during what can be the most difficult of times."

Lyndsay Ellis of Park Funeral Directors said the new crematorium would make things easier for bereaved local families: "Having a crematorium in the Vale will save families a lot of distress in terms of having to deal with the travelling time to Bridgend or Cardiff.

"It could be up to 45 minutes to get there, meaning a round trip of an hour and a half by the time they got home.

"With the new facility, that is something they will not have to contend with any more."



PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK.

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ACOUSTIC DUO'S SHOW
LOCAL acoustic duo, 'The Vale of Glamorgan', will be making their debut performance at the Borough Arms, High Street, Barry, this Saturday, December 3.

With a varied set taking in the likes of Oasis, The Beatles, Katy Perry, Take That and much, much more, there is something for everyone!

Entry is free, with the band taking the stage at 9.30pm.

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Out and About with The GEM

LIB-DEM SURGERY

WELSH Lib-Dem Assembly member for South Wales West, Peter Black, will hold an advice surgery on Friday, December 2, in Pyle Life Centre, Bridgend, from 2pm-3pm. No appointment is necessary.

LLANTWIT MAJOR CRAFT & GIFT FAIRS

New stalls to see...

Saturday 3rd September - Llantwit Major Hall
(behind the library) 10.00am - 3pm

A Christmas special with Santa!

Enquiries, contact Peta Shields
Epeta@pearlerecott.co.uk

Last Christmas event due Saturday 17th December

Porthcawl U3A in a festive mood

PORTHCAWL U3A is celebrating the festive season with its normal full programme of events throughout December at The Rest, Porthcawl, plus the following special Christmas events:

Popular Writers and Story morning, Prince of Wales, Kenfig on December 2; Festive Singalong concert by the Singalong Group at The Rest, December 12;

Christmas carol service at Trinity Church, December 13; *Cinderella and her Fella* pantomime by the Latin and Romans group at The Rest on December 14.

This unique bi-lingual pantomime is performed in Latin and English.

Colouring and cakes

COWBRIDGE

Library is holding a 'colouring and cakes' day to raise money for LATCH - the Welsh children's cancer charity on Saturday, December 3 from 10am-4pm.

All ages are welcome. For more information, contact the library on 01446 773941.

Eisteddfod quiz

QUIZ evening/Noson Gwyl, Saturday, December 3 at 7pm at the Millennium Hall, Porth y Castell, in aid of Eisteddfod 2012.

Tickets £6 including soup, cheese and cake -

bring your own wine!
Contact Heulwen Cooper (01446 733784) for tickets.

Valeways walks

'THE fine inns of Cowbridge' walk will take place Sunday, December 4 at 2.30pm; meet in front of Cowbridge town hall (SS994747).

Blow away the cobwebs' walk on Tuesday, December 6 at 1.30pm; meet at Barry Island car park (side of Old Harbour).

Lovelight service

THERE will be a Lovelight Christmas service on Wednesday, December 7 at 7pm at All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry.

The choir from All Saints Primary School will be taking part and the service will be taken by the Rev Adrian Berry.

The service has been arranged by the Barry Friends of Tenovus group, and they look forward to welcoming as many as possible to this moving service, to light

a candle in memory of family and friends who are no longer with us and also give thanks for the recovery from illness.

For further details, contact Mrs Mary Thomas on 01446 733978.

Tenovus

BARRY Friends of Tenovus are holding a Christmas coffee morning on Wednesday, December 14, 10.30am at the Romilly Bowling Club in Romilly Park Barry.

Entry £2, various stalls and a raffle. All are welcome.

Contact Mary Thomas on 01446 733978 for information.

Festive tree festival

THE All Saints and Rotary Christmas tree festival takes place on December 7-11.

More than 50 Christmas trees will form a magnificent display in All Saints Church and the festival will be open from 11am-5pm.

There will be a musical evening with local schools and Sounds Familiar on Thursday, December 8 at 7pm and at 12noon on December 8, there will be a lunchtime concert with Col Canto.

Free entry to all events and there will be a collection for local charities.

Palmerston craft fayre

THERE will be a Christmas craft fayre at Palmerston Community Learning Centre, Cadoc Crescent, Barry, on December 6-7 from 10am-4pm.

Craft stalls; glass, jewellery and produce. Admission free. Refreshments available.

Telephone 01446 733762 for more information.

December 8 in the Lesser Hall at 7.30pm.

Anyone wishing to pay their membership can do so at the meeting. Forms can be picked up in the meeting for anyone wishing to join.

Billboard panto

BILLBOARD present the pantomime *Hunchback of Notre Dame* at the Memorial Hall and Theatre, Barry, on December 14, 15 and 16 (matinees on 17 and 18).

For more information, call 01446 733625/400055.

'Lovelight' service

THE Llantwit Major Friends of Tenovus are holding their 'Lovelight' service on Thursday, December 15 from 7.30pm at St Illtyd's Church.

Toy and train sale

THE final collector's show of 2011 takes place at Barry Leisure Centre on Sunday, December 4.

However, three dates for 2012 have already been booked and the area will also be well-catered for on Saturday, January 7, at Penarth Leisure Centre.

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "Barry is always a very happy show and one which attracts many

people to the well-appointed and well-lit venue.

"Our traders are keener than ever to do business in these difficult times, and I have never seen such value being offered, in all my years in the business."

The show opens at 10.30am and continues until 3pm. Further details on 01643 702757 and 07966 694579; website www.chrisdyer-fairs.co.uk.

DON'T MISS THE... **BARRY Nr. CARDIFF TOY & TRAIN SALE**

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Biggins will star in panto

CHRISTOPHER BIGGINS and Paul Zerdin, the stars of this year's New Theatre pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe and the Caribbean Pirates*, have officially launched the swashbuckling show during a visit to Cardiff.

Christopher Biggins, who has enjoyed a hugely successful career in television, film and theatre, will take on the role of Mrs Cruse, Robinson Crusoe's

mother. Christopher's countless television appearances include being crowned King of the Jungle on ITV's *I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!*, winner of *Celebrity Come Dine with Me* on Channel 4, as well as making regular appearances on *Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway*.

He has recently appeared in the film adaptation of the stage play *Run for your Wife*, which is due for release in the spring.

The hilarious antics of larger-than-life Christopher Biggins is matched by the huge talent of Paul Zerdin and we are thrilled that he will be leading the cast of this hugely-entertaining and unmissable pantomime at the New Theatre," said Jonathan Kiley, executive producer of *Robinson Crusoe and the Caribbean Pirates*.

Produced by Qdos Entertainment, the company behind the New Theatre's record-breaking pantomimes in recent years, the adventure of *Robinson Crusoe and the Caribbean Pirates* will bring to life with an abundance of comedy, outrageous costumes and stunning sets!

Robinson Crusoe and the Caribbean Pirates is sponsored by Admiral and runs at Cardiff's New Theatre from Saturday, December 10, 2011 to Sunday, January 22, 2012. Telephone 02920878889 for tickets.

Style Gardens Christmas Craft Fayres

First Three Weekends in December

Saturday 3rd Sunday 4th

10th 11th

17th 18th

9am - 5.30pm 10.30am - 4.30pm

Wenvoe Primary School Choir 10th December at 1pm

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Take Part in our Special Events

Christmas Fair and Santa's Grotto
Sat 3rd - Sun 4th Dec | 10am - 4pm
A wide range of Christmas gift ideas, including local crafts and food stalls. Santa's Grotto open from 11.30am - 1.10pm. Normal admission charges apply (additional cost applies for Grotto).

Christmas Decorations Workshop
Sat 10th Dec | 10am - 4pm
The day will cover making a variety of Christmas decorations including wreaths and swags using some natural materials, which you will be able to take home to decorate your home for the festive season. Minimum 10 people. Cost £25.

Botanical Art
Sat 28th Jan | 10am - 4pm
Learn how to draw a botanical subject in a day with Debbie Devauden. The day will cover different drawing and water colour techniques culminating in your taking home your very own art piece. Cost £25.
This course has previously been a sell-out at book only. Minimum 8, maximum 12 people.

Stargazers' Evening
Sat 3rd Dec | 1pm - 8.10pm
Join the Cardiff Astronomical Society looking at the night sky. Illustrated talks will replace the viewing in the case of inclement weather. Please book as there are limited spaces. Cost £7.

For a full list of our Autumn/Winter events please visit our website or call us on 029 2059 3328 - www.dyffryn-gardens.com dyffryn@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

PITT AND HILL SHINE AS MILLER'S MONEYBALL STRIKES A HOME RUN

SPORTS teams using statistics to give themselves the best chance of achieving success is nothing new in the present day, but the seeds for this were sown by the Oakland Athletics baseball team, whose story was turned into a book by Michael

Lewis, and now a film called *Moneyball*.

Brad Pitt plays Billy Beane, the club's general manager whose resources are limited in comparison to the bigger teams.

However, using sabremetrics, a method being used by Yale graduate Peter Brand (Jonah Hill) Beane and his team begin punching above their weight and achiev-

ing more than they ever dreamed, much to the chagrin of head coach Art Howe (Philip Seymour Hoffman) and the team's scouts ...

By now we've all seen the traditional sports movie; you know, the one where the underdog builds his way up from the bottom, undergoes a transformation in fortune before achieving either massive success or heroic failure in the final reel.

Predominantly the preserve of American cinema, we've seen it in boxing (*Rocky*, *The Fighter*), American football (*Remember The Titans*), even robot fighting (last month's *Real Steel*).

So with *Moneyball* set in the world of baseball you will no doubt be expecting the same journey, just with different characters – but you would be wrong. Not drastically I grant you,

the film showing a similar regard for genre convention as the aforementioned works, but this is a film that concentrates on off-field debates and struggles more than on-field action.

The actual story is an intriguing and interesting one, particularly as the system utilised in the film has now become such a massive part of team sports across the world, including football and rugby, and with heavyweight writers Aaron Sorkin and Steve Zaillian working from Michael Lewis' source material, it becomes a highly cinematic one as well, showing that you don't need to be the biggest dog in the yard in order to compete (the equivalent being Butlins attempting to take on Disneyland).

Both writers are well-renowned, Sorkin for the acerbic and truly mercurial dialogue, while Zaillian has tackled heavyweight fare such as *Schindler's List* and *Gangs of New York* with aplomb, and it is pleasing that the script here, based on Stan Chervin's story, retains the best parts of each man's writing style.

The screenplay is funnier than it should be, with Sorkin's way with

words more than on show, the dialogue spiky and witty though with far more economy than usual.

Zaillian's ability to conjure a wholly absorbing narrative while still retaining the human interest at the centre of it all is present and correct (Beane's relationship with his daughter moving the story away from too much bat and ball action).

The film similarly benefits from having a more substantial director in Bennett Miller, whose last movie was the critically-lauded *Capote*.

Again Miller's direction pays off in spades, taking the film away from its sporting base and concentrating on the characters and set-ups, giving the film an almost documentary feel.

There is little in the way of sporting action; instead, the camera following Beane's own tactic of avoiding watching the game and following the character as he keeps tabs on what's happening via TV and radio.

There is a beautifully-executed shot towards the end that shows Miller's intentions are not about showing the high points of the game but rather the effect it has upon the players,



by
GARETH JAMIESON

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achieve your goals – and it is also a superb piece of filmmaking.

VERDICT: A sturdy story of statistics, *Moneyball* eschews the normal sporting film template for something more cerebral and captivating.

With a top script, direction and winning performances, the film ticks all the boxes and should make for great watch no matter what level your love of baseball. *Highly recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Friday Night Lights* (2004), *Eight Men Out* (1988).

GHOSTLY TALES...

by HAYLEY WILLIAMS

THE ancient borough of Kenfig dates back to around 2,000 BC. It was also linked to the Romans, and was a thriving town encased within high walls to protect it from enemy attack.

It is steeped in history and legends, which are fascinating tales about the town's existence. Kenfig castle and the original town were buried under the sand mountains during the medieval period after a raging storm, although many believe that they lie beneath Kenfig pool/lake, which gobble up its town and people.

Legend maintains that Kenfig pool is bottomless, as this was the belief after a man, his horse and carriage became entangled in the ruins of the old town beneath the menacing waters when riding through it. The fable insists they

were never seen again.

Myth states that a fierce whirlpool sucks people into its funnel of swirling water, swallowing them up as if satisfying its hunger. Could this unlikely fable be an invention from the pool's humble beginnings, or an 'old wives' tale' told to families from a bygone era gathered around the fireplace listening to tales from their elders?

Eerie screams have been heard at the dead of night bellowing out across the wilderness... Could these frightful sounds be from a young man from the Victorian era who drowned in Kenfig river after falling from a tree, or the Gwrach y Rhben (hag of the mist) echoing her spell of wickedness?

Sightings of a white horse on moonlit nights have been identified, catering across the wilderness, only to vanish into thin air. Could this phantom appearance

be a remembrance of the romantic tragedy linked to the Maid of Sker?

On the distant seas towards Sker rocks, a ghostly ship has been seen mirroring white mist around it, particularly on stormy nights, when the church bells beneath the pool will distinctly ring out.

Could these scary happenings be a re-enactment of a ship lost to the treacherous seas, when the bells would ring out warning its people of disaster?

The figure of a phantom lady wearing an old fashioned flowing gown has been seen dancing across the land before disappearing into the darkness.

Could this seemingly happy lady be connected to the annual dancing festivals which were held at the local guildhall, or just an illusion lost in the midst of time?

Fact or fable, it's up to you to decide....

Seasons
Garden & Christmas Outlet

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NOW OPEN!!!

Thousands of NEW exciting Christmas products NOW instore & online !!!

Now Open 7 Days a Week

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Exit junction 36 M4, take A4061 to Bryncethin left at lights, then first left at roundabout, just off Aneurin Bevan Ave, follow signs for Seasons. Only 3 minutes from Designer Outlet Village (McArthur Glen) & Sarn Services. Seasons, Unit 9/10, Parc-y-bont, Brynmelyn Industrial Estate, Bridgend CF32 9SZ

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ORDER FROM OUR NEW WEBSITE TODAY!

Opening Times

Mon-Sat 10am-5pm
Sun 10am-4pm

Reindeer parade draws thousands of people to Cowbridge with start of the festive season

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

**Pictures can be purchased
by contacting:
e-mail glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.
Visit our studio in the Wool Barn
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.**

IN the 12 year history of the Cowbridge Reindeer Parade no crowd has been as big as this year's turnout with estimates running at between 20,000 and 25,000 visitors.

As you can see from Glyn Evans' images, there are few things in life that bring as much joy as the beginning of the Christmas season.



VALE MAYOR'S CAROL CONCERT

VALE MAYOR'S CAROL CONCERT
THE Vale of Glamorgan Mayor invites the public to start Christmas celebrations with a carol concert at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry, on December 8 at 7pm, with the Vale of Glamorgan Band, Barry Male Voice Choir, Gladstone Road Primary School Choir and the Llamau Choir.

Tickets are £5 from the Mayor's Office on 01446 709301. All proceeds to Llamau.

FOLLOWING the choir's recent appearance at St David's Hall, Cardiff, as part of The British Heart Foundation's fundraising concert, Barry Male Voice Choir is now in the final stage of a busy Christmas period.

Having already sung at Llandough Hospital, at the Advent Concert at St David's Church, Colcot and at the switch-on of the High Street lights, the choir will shortly perform at Barry Hospital, Barry Island Residential Home, the VCVS Open Door Event and the Vale Mayor's Christmas Concert.

2.30pm in All Saints Church, Barry, the choir will join the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band for its Christmas concert, which this year is in aid of the Marie Curie Hospice Penarth charity.

a well-earned
as break, practices will
at Holy Trinity Church
Trinity Street, Barry on

5 at 7.30pm. New
s are always welcome.
uct [www.barry-
cechoir.co.uk/www.bar-
oicechoir.co.uk;](http://www.barry-
cechoir.co.uk/www.bar-
oicechoir.co.uk;) or
e 01446 402398

Lucy and Rhodri light up Cowbridge for Christmas as Santa Claus comes to town!

THE day began with Santa and his reindeer leading the parade through Cowbridge, watched by a crowd of many thousands.

After musical entertainment during the afternoon, it was time for the BBC's Lucy and Rhodri Owen, local residents and great supporters of the town, to join Santa and Alun John, the chairman of the chamber of trade, for the switching on of the town's Christmas lights.

Mr John later said it was the biggest crowd ever at the event, estimating it at between 20,000 and 25,000, with visitors coming from as far afield as London and Devon.

**PHOTOGRAPHS
by ANDY WICKS**



ABOVE: Rhodri Owen with Santa.



Chamber of Trade chairman Alun John.



Rhodri Owen with the Town Mayor,
Coun Andy Banks.



ABOVE: Lucy prepares to light up the town.



Christmas In Business

High fashion clothing, parties and gift vouchers

Eye Candy Boutique
High Fashion Clothing
Why not host a clothing party?
A great girl's night in!
Now enjoy shopping at home or in store...
 **01446 678355**
Eye Candy Boutique, The Limes,
COWBRIDGE, CF71 7BJ
Gift Vouchers too!

THREE'S so much more to see at Eye Candy - fancy a great night with the girls? Then you'll love hosting an Eye Candy clothing party!

As a host, you choose a date and invite your friends. We arrive with armfuls of clothes, bags and accessories, you

and the girls relax and enjoy browsing through the collection.

As a host you receive 10 per cent off your shopping. Not only that, if two of your guests decide they would like to book a party in the future, you'll receive an extra five per cent discount off your shopping. Of course, boutique

browsers can mooch through the full range. To ensure you dazzle this festive season, call Amy at Eye Candy, The Limes, Cowbridge, CF71 7BJ or call 01446 678355 or 07847 394745.

Sarah Rosser Photography – 'offers portraiture of all ages'

WE are new professional portrait photographers based in a comfort-

able and relaxed home studio in the Vale of Glamorgan. We specialise in portraiture of all ages.

Sarah Rosser Photography*
Making memories of your moments
Professional, contemporary portrait photography at an affordable price, in a relaxed and fun home studio.
Babies, Children, Tweens, Teens & Families.
Photoshoot with two complimentary 8"x10" mounted prints of your choice £25!
Packages start at £49!
★Gift Vouchers Available★
For a unique and timeless Christmas Gift to be cherished for years to come!
To see full portfolio, price lists & offers!

Sarah Rosser-Photography sr_photography@btconnect.com
★07582 985360★

We aim to make the photoshoots interesting, enjoyable and a little bit different, and we are always ready to listen to the kind of photographs the subject would like; after all, it's for your home!

We believe photographs should capture not just the outward appearance, but the soul and essence of who we are – individuality deserves to be captured and frozen for a lifetime.

We aim to be affordable, unique and above all, fun! Please call Sarah on 07582 985360

Everything you need to Create Your Day...

CREATE Your Day offers unmissable wedding fayres in south Wales. We offer all nearlyweds the best exhibitors south Wales has to offer.

You will always receive a warm welcome, along with FREE entry, FREE onsite parking and a FREE goody bag on arrival.

We have everything you need to help Create Your Day at all our wedding fayres plus exclusive discounts on the day.

This includes everything from photographers to chair covers, dresses to jewellery.

Create Your Day always tries to offer something different to help plan your big day.

Call Clare at Create Your Day on 07545 195872

WEDDING FAYRES BY Create Your Day

The Princess Royal Theatre
Civic Centre, Port Talbot, SA13 1PJ
8th JANUARY 2012

Newport University, Caerleon Campus
Lodge Rd, Caerleon, Newport, NP18 3QZ
19th February 2012

Cineworld
Mary Ann Street, Cardiff, CF10 2EN
Wedding Fayre & Film Showing
Starts 6.30pm
8th March 2012

St Mary's Golf Club
Pencoed, Bridgend, CF35 5EA
29th March 2012

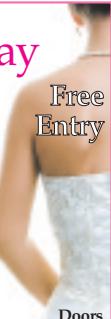
The Great House
Laleston, Bridgend, CF32 0HP
15th April 2012

Cardiff City Stadium
Leckwith Road, Cardiff, CF11 8AZ

27th May 2012

Free Entry

Doors Open
11am-4pm
Free Entry
Goody Bag
on arrival



Thank you from Paul and Darran



Paul James and Darran Gray are the new team at Bargain Booze, Cowbridge.

WE would like to thank everyone in and around Cowbridge for the warm reception and support we have received.

It means a lot to us to be made to feel welcome in the town and we look forward to seeing you at your local store very soon – call 01446 775380, 27 Eastgate. Regards, Paul and Darran.

BARGAIN BOOZE Select Convenience

The NEW TEAM Paul James and Darran Gray look forward to welcoming you back...
RE-OPENED Friday 25th November

STOCKIN' UP FOR THE CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN!



MANY MORE OFFERS IN STORE...

Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL
01446 775380 OPEN 7am-10pm DAILY

2 FOR £10
£5.99 EACH

BPU will help with a free review of your finances

WITH Christmas fast approaching, it can be an expensive time of year for owner-managed businesses that will cover the following areas:

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Do you need expert tax and financial advice to help manage and grow your business?

We can help!

BPU Chartered Accountants is offering a FREE financial review to local businesses that will cover the following areas:

- Audit & Annual Accounts
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- VAT Schemes
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To book a free appointment today

Call: 01446 796313 or 029 20734100

BPU Chartered Accountants
Llantwit Major & Cardiff
www.bpuaccountants.co.uk

Frankincense, myrrh and gold at West House!

THE West House Country Hotel, nestling in its quaint Llantwit Major surroundings, continues to offer guests something special.

Enjoy mulled wine on arrival in the lounge, where a log fire and candles burn brightly.

Our festive season culminates on Christmas Day, where a dish inspired by the Three Wise Men is created with frankincense, myrrh and gold.

Partridge and pear are also on the menu celebrating the first day of Christmas.

We take this opportunity to wish all

our customers a very merry Christmas and prosperous New Year, and thank you for your support in 2011.

See our advertisement on front page or page 4.

View our menu at www.westhouse-hotel.co.uk or call 01446 792406.

CHRISTMAS ... in the heart of Cowbridge
Bijou
meet eat party play
the new concept in boutique children's parties, play and luxury cafe



Santa's Coming to Bijou

Santa's Grotto - prices from £6 per child

11-4pm every weekend

Sat & Sun until Christmas

11-4pm 19th-23rd Dec

Tea with Santa

£10 per person

4.30-6pm various dates

available from the 17th December

GIVE THE GIFT OF YEAR ROUND PLAY THIS CHRISTMAS

Bijou membership

£14 p/m for the 1st child

£6 p/m for the 2nd

and ONLY £2 p/m for any further children

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46a Eastgate, Cowbridge

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Arborwood Tree Care... at your service!

DOUGLAS BURTON met Helen (née Dale) in New Zealand, and they married and settled in Llantwit Major, Helen's home town eight years ago.

They are excited to be launching their own new business venture, having enjoyed excellent local rapport.

Douglas has a unique working background as a qualified arborist, previously groundsman for a tree surgery in Hampshire, and for a company while travelling in New Zealand.

After qualifying as a horticulturalist in 1996,

Keeping gutters clear of problems

ANDY KIRK, proprietor of CCMS Ltd, has over 25 years' experience in making sure rainwater systems do the job that they should.

CCMS presently provides a reliable service to a variety of customers – local schools, estate agents, landlords, hotels, pubs, clubs residential homes and private homes.

Gutter cleaning is essential maintenance as, if not attended to, it can cause rotting fascias

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**GUTTER AND
RAINWATER
SYSTEMS
CLEARED**

and lead to damp problems bringing mould into your home.

Gutters and down-pipes are cleared by our reliable staff who can give an examination and report on the condition of the roofline.

Our prices will surprise you, as we are very reasonable – example: for a 2-3 bedroom semi-detached, it's between £30-£40.

We also clean UPVC fascias, conservatory roofs and pressure wash.

Why not give us a call on 07830 480569 or 01446 741460?

UPVC CLEANING:
Conservatories, Gutters, Cladding,
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WINDOW CLEANING:
High access, safety conscious
water-fed pole system.

PRESSURE JET WASHING:
Paths, Patios, Moss Covered Walls.

"Check your gutters, after the
Autumn leaf fall they are likely to
be full of leaves and moss."

Full Independence Ltd

**WE REPAIR
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• Full Property Maintenance

• Access Solutions

• Landscaping & Design

Easy Bathing Specialists

Walk In - Sit Down - Relax

CHRISTMAS OFFER: Get a free circulation booster pack worth £199.99 with every walk in bath installation ordered before December 25th 2011.

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM AND HAVE A LOOK AT THE WALK IN BATHS

Units 1 & 2 Adenfield Way, Rhoose, VoG, CF62 3EA

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Tree pruning • Crown lifting • Tree felling
Dangerous tree work • Pollarding
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Call us for a friendly, free quote • Fully insured
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For all your farming needs...

WITH Christmas around the corner, here at Benton Agricultural, we have a range of toys for all those budding young farmers.

We have pedal or push along tractors and Britains and Siku die cast toys.

If we haven't got what you're after, have a

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GENUINE ROLLY TOY RIDE-ON TRACTORS FOR SALE

We also have a range of Britains and Siku toys in stock!



Pop in and see us, prices are lower than many retailers and if we haven't got it, ask and we'll see if we can order it.

Why not get yourself ready for winter, Rock Salt, Snow Shovels and Sledges available now!

Full Independence have much to offer

FULL INDEPENDENCE of Rhoose has one of the most accessible showrooms in Wales! With free on-site parking, the showroom has everything you need to remain independent.

There's a wide choice of items and products to help daily living.

Brian Fulthorpe explained that there are additional benefits to dealing with Full Independence.

"There's even a full

property and garden maintenance service – all done by our company's in-house staff.

"We can offer wheelchair and scooter hire. People can call 01446 711555 for more information."

Brian said: "Our Christmas offer is to get a free circulation booster pack worth £199.99, with every walk-in bath installation ordered before December 25.

"If interested, people can visit our showroom to have a look at our walk-in baths at Units 1 and 2 Adenfield Way, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3EA."

Why not detox your business for 2012?

MAKE 2012 the year you find the time and energy to do everything you want to do! If you are starting a new business, juggling work and family life, never

get the chance to look at the 'big picture', or would simply like to get on top of your paper-work, this event is for you.

Clutter and organisation consultant/tutor, Loraine Lewis, will demonstrate her simple,

practical, inexpensive methods, so you can gain control.

Find out how you can focus on the important stuff, keep track of the smaller details, and still keep sight of your dreams.

Please join us on Wednesday, December 7, at Bar 44, Cowbridge; guest membership for the evening is £10.

Please contact us to book via email at members@vwnb.org.uk.

For more information on the benefits of networking and joining the VWBN, contact members@vwnb.org.uk.

Vale Women's Business Network

Make 2012 the Year you Improve Your Business Turnover!

Wed 7th December 2012

At Bar 44, Cowbridge

6.30 – 9 pm

Guests and non-members are most welcome!
(Guest membership for this event is £10)

Please email members@vwnb.org.uk to book

www.vwnb.org.uk

Christmas fun to support cause...

JUST Learning Nursery, Broadlands, would like to invite you to our Christmas fete on Saturday, December 10, from 10am until 1pm, in support of Great Ormond Street Hospital, a charity close to our hearts.

Come and visit our Santa's grotto, have a

family photo taken by Christabel Photography, or simply have a browse around the stalls for Christmas presents from Rascals toy shop, hand crafted items, and our book stall.

There will be face painting, tombola, lucky dip, refreshments – and why not try your luck in our Christmas raffle?

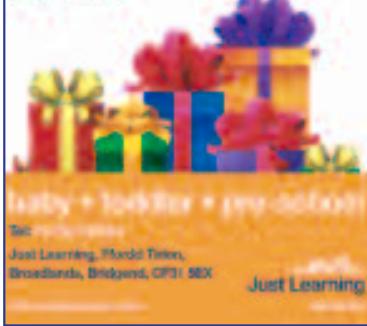
Come and join the fun and visit our fabulous nursery. For further information, please contact 01656 649644.

Come to our brilliant Christmas Fete

Please join us for our Christmas Fete on Saturday 10th December, from 10am until 1pm.

There will be some great stalls including: Christmas Grotto, craft and toy stalls, mince pies and face painting.

Everyone welcome!



JOHN HUGHES

– family butchers

TRADING on Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun, JOHN HUGHES is a traditionally-run family butchers.

It has achieved many meat products gold awards, including one for traditional pork sausage, pork garlic and leek.

The business is now taking orders for Christmas, telephone 01443 225225.

JOHN HUGHES

Award Winning Butchers
Best Welsh Beef & Lamb – Vale reared



Selection of Quality Meats & Home-Made Sausages
Variety of Burgers, seasoned meats including Chinese Chicken, Chicken, Kebabs, Steak Kebabs and more!
Always popular – wholesome stews!

Seasonal Favourites:-
Glamorgan/Pembroke Shire Turkeys, Ducks, Coedwyna (free range), Geese.
Telephone: 01443 225225
31 Cowbridge Road, PONTYCLUN



Cleaning service at a high standard

IMMACULATE Cleaning Services are a small team of domestic cleaners covering Bridgend and the Vale.

Our team take pride in their extremely high standards of cleaning and we can tailor our services to suit each individual need.

Some comments from customers:
"It is such a relief to come home at the end of

a busy day to a lovely, clean place and just be able to put my feet up!"

"The team far exceed all expectations and do such a wonderful job."

"In all our years of having cleaners, we have never been happier than we are with Immaculate Cleaning."

At Immaculate Cleaning we are competitively priced and can supply references upon request.

Immaculate

- One Off or Regular Clean
- Ironing Services available
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- Fully Insured
- All staff CRB checked
- Call or email now for a free, No Obligation Quote



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CLEANING
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SERVICES

Covering Bridgend & The Vale

Call (Bridgend) 07999 257421

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Web: www.immaculateneating.co.uk

Cyclists raise cash for four charities

WHAT started as a casual comment in the pub over a pint of beer – ‘fancy travelling from Tenby to Colwinston this year?’ – turned out to be a reality, thanks to the hard work and organisational skills of Alun Austin, Mark Carter, Cath Perkins and Lucy Stokes.

After several logistical meetings and many months of training the day eventually arrived.

Eighteen bright-eyed and bushy-tailed cyclists arrived at Colwinston at 6.45am to drive up to New Hedges Tavern for the start of the journey.

It was cloudy and dubious weather at the start, as the cyclists headed off into the distance, and with a back-up crew on duty to leapfrog the cyclists to strategic meeting points for water/food stops.

The first checkpoint was Wiseman Bridge, where the rain was horizontal, winds of 50mph at least, and hills you have not seen like the of.

Next stop Laugharne at 11.30am. Fortunately, the rain had stopped and drinks and food were administered.

All the cyclists regrouped and headed off again onto Kidwelly to stop at 4.30pm, again up incredibly steep hills which took their toll on even the fittest of the cyclists, but everyone made it.

The sun was at last shining but very strong winds made cycling hard work.

Last stop was Llanelli, at 6.30pm at the Coastal Park Hotel, and a very welcome beer.

There were 11 punctures on day one and a back-up team member was dispatched to the local Halfords to smile nicely at the shopkeeper, and ask for a discount for new inner tubes for day two.

She obviously smiled very broadly because he donated them to the bike ride. What a very nice man!

Day two started at 9am, after a night of torrential rain which disturbed even the heaviest of sleepers.

All the cyclists departed, with back-up following. First stop was the Railway Inn, and everyone was going great guns.

The weather was kinder and the wind had dropped, but just as a

reminder, the heavens opened for another torrential downpour to soak everyone.

The next rendezvous was Aberavon seafront, where not only hot drinks were administered but we tried to dry out wet shoes, change soaking tops, get everyone warm and send them on their way again.

In between the torrential showers, the weather was better, the route was flatter and all the cyclists were in fine form.

The group travelled across the top of Margam, through Pyle and on to Tondu, and the last official stop for tea and coffee.

The last regroup was at Brocstable, where Harrie, our youngest rider, was awarded the yellow jersey for such an amazing feat. A tender 13 years, he kept pace with everyone.

The last mighty climb was up Crack Hill and into the village, led by Harrie, where crowds

had gathered to welcome our heroes home.

There was beer and food for a very deserving team of riders and crew who worked exceptionally hard for all the sponsorship money raised.

Eighteen riders were aged from 13-year-old Harrie Jehu, to Colin

Howells (Rasper), 67 years old, with Alun Austin, Mark Carter, Brett Clee, Josh and Clive Edwards, Phil Harrington, Laura Hetherington, Dave Hodge, Simon and Anne-Marie Jehu, Rob John, Catherine Perkins, Lucy Stokes, Mike Wilkinson, Lucy Satherley and last but not least Ian Lane in between.

A grand total of £8,578.04 was raised and split evenly between Macmillan Cancer, Ty Hafan, Child Safe and Motor Neurone Disease Association.

JULIE LLOYD

The weather was kinder and the wind had dropped, but just as a

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The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan

Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012



Eisteddfod Choir to perform British premiere of Karl Jenkins' new work

ONE of the greatest activities the Eisteddfod brings to any area is the formation of the Eisteddfod Choir, with an opportunity to perform in front of over 2,000 people in the Eisteddfod pavilion with a full concert orchestra and world class soloists

This week came the exciting news that the Eisteddfod Choir will be performing the British premiere of Karl Jenkins' new work : *The Bards of Wales*.

Gower-born Karl initially made his name in the world of jazz; however, it was his composition *Adiemus* that brought him worldwide success. *Adiemus* combined the classical with ethnic vocal sounds and percussion and topped classical and pop charts around the world.

His compositions include *Requiem*, *Stabat Mater* and *Dewi Sant* and he has also collaborated with some of the world's best known singers including Bryn Terfel, Hayley Westenra and Kiri Te Kanawa.

Karl Jenkins is the UK's most popular contemporary composer, and one of Wales' most versatile and critically-acclaimed musicians

He is credited as being the most performed living composer

in the world, his composition '*The Armed Man: A Mass For Peace*' alone has been performed nearly 1000 times in 20 different countries since the CD was released while his recorded output has resulted in seventeen gold and platinum disc awards.

His latest work '*The Bards of Wales*' was premiered in Hungary in June. The piece forges an unexpected link between Hungary and Wales : The Hungarian poet János Arany (1817-82) was asked to write a poem in praise of the Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph but, as the Austrian overlords had just suppressed the 1848 Hungarian Revolution, the poet did the opposite.

To satisfy the state censor, the poem was written in terms of Welsh history, rather than Hungarian, telling how Edward I of England executed Welsh bards for failing to sing their praises at a banquet in Montgomery Castle in 1277.

When Hungary emerged from World War I as an independent state, The Bards of Wales found its place in the national education system and is learnt by heart by all children at the age of 13 or 14.

In Hungary it is a poem so ingrained into the cultural psyche that adults and children can recite it on demand.

Jenkins has set the text in Hungarian, Welsh

and English, and it is intended that the work can be sung throughout in a single language or a combination. The British premiere of the work at the Eisteddfod will feature the Welsh language version of the work by poet Twm Morris.

According to Eisteddfod Organiser Hywel Wyn Edwards: "We are delighted that Karl Jenkins has chosen the Eisteddfod for the British premiere of this new work. The Eisteddfod choir are looking forward immensely to performing the work. Should you be interested in joining the Eisteddfod choir there is still an opportunity to join and we are urging local people to do so."

Joining the choir is easy! Rehearsals are held at the Tabernacle Chapel, Barry, every Tuesday evening at 19.00 under the baton of choir masters Euros Rhys and Eleri Roberts.

If you are interested in joining, contact the eisteddfod office on gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk or 0845 40 90 300, or come along to one of the rehearsals.

Côr yr Eisteddfod i berfformio premiere Prydeinig o waith newydd Karl Jenkins

MAE ffurio Côr yr Eisteddfod yn un o brif weithgareddau ymwelliad yr Eisteddfod i unrhyw ardal. Mae'n gyfle i berfformio i bafiliwn o dros 2,000 o bobol gyda cherdorfa broffesiynol ac unawdwrwyd enwog.

Wytihad yma daeth y newyddion cyffrous y bydd Côr Eisteddfod Bro Morgannwg yn perfformio premier Prydeinig gwaith

newydd Karl Jenkins :

Beirdd Cymru. Gwnaeth Karl Jenkins, sydd yn enedigol o'r Gwy, ei enw yn wreiddiol ym myd Jazz. Ei gyfansoddiad Adiemus foedd bynnag ddaeth ag ef i amlygrwydd fyd enwog. Cyfunodd Adiemus y clasurol gyda synau lleisiol ethnig ac offer taro ac fe gyrhaeddodd y brig yn siartau clasurol a pop ar draws y byd. Ymysg ei gyfansoddiadau mae Requiem, Stabat Mater a Dewi Sant. Mae o hefyd wedi cydweithio gyda rhai o gantriorion mawr y byd gan gynnwys Bryn Terfel, Hayley Westenra a Kiri Te Kanawa.

Karl Jenkins yw'r cyfansodbwyr a berfformir mwyaf yn y byd, mae ei waith; '*The Armed Man: A Mass For Peace*' ei hun wedi ei berfformio bron i 1,000 o weithiau mewn 20 o wledydd gwahanol.

Perfformiwyd ei waith diweddaraf, 'Beirdd Cymru', mewn premier arbenigol y Hwngarijis Mehefin ac mae'r darn yn datgelu cysylltiad annisgwyl rhwng Cymru a Hwngari. Gofynnwyd i'r bardd János Arany (1817-82) i ysgrifennu darn i glodfor i'r Ymerawdwr o Awstria Franz Joseph ond oherwydd bod arwlyddi Awstria newydd drechu Chwyldro Hwngari yn 1848 ef wnaeth János Arany y gwirthwymeb.

Er mwyn cadw sensor y Cynulliad yn hapus ysgrifennwyd y gerdd yn adrodd hanes Cymru yn hytrach na Hwngari, gan son am sut y dienyd dwydd Beirdd Cymru gan Edward I am wrthod canu clod iddo mewn gwledd yng Nghastell Trefaldwyn yn 1277.

Pan ymgododd Hwngari fel gwlad annibynnol ar ôl y Rhyfel Byd Cyntaf fe wnaeth 'Beirdd Cymru' ymddangos ar gwricwylwm addysg y wladd ymddybi mas'r darn yn cael ei astudio gan blant ysgolion y wladd. Mae'n wir i ddweud bod y darn mor reddol i bobol Hwngari gall unrhyw oedolyn neu blentyn o'r wladd ei adrodd o'r cof. Mae Jenkins wedi gosod y testun yn Gymraeg, Hwngaraidd a Saesneg gyda'r bwriad o'r gwaith gael ei perfformio mewn unrhyw un o'r tair iaith newydd ymddybi o'r tri. Fe fydd y premier Prydeinig yn cynnwys y

fersiwn Gymraeg o'r gwaith sydd wedi ei gyfeithu gan y Prifardd Twm Morys.

Yn ôl Trefnydd yr Eisteddfod Hywel Wyn Edwards: "Mae'r Eisteddfod wrth ei bod bod Karl Jenkins wedi dewis yr Eisteddfod ar gyfer llwyfannu ei waith newydd am y trwyf cynaf ym Mhrdinian ac mae Côr yr Eisteddfod yn edrych ymlaen yn eid-dgar i berfformio'r gwaith. Os oes didordeb gyda chi i ymuno gyda'r Côr yna mae dal cyfle i wneud ac rydym yn amog unrhywun lleol sydd hefo didordeb i waeth."

Mae ymuno gyda'r Côr yn hawdd! Cynhelir ymarferion yng Nghapel Tabernacl y Barri bob nos Fawrth am 19.00 dan arweinydiant y Cor Feistri Euros Rhys ac Eleri Roberts. Os oes didordeb gyda chi mewn ymuno yna cysylltwch â Swyddfa'r Eisteddfod ar gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk n eu 0845 40 90 300 neu galwch draw i un o'r ymarferion.



ABOVE:
Welsh composer Karl Jenkins, whose new work, *The Bards of Wales*, will be premiered at the National Eisteddfod in the Vale next year.

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It's not just cats and dogs that get dumped by cruel owners!



Denise Cooper feeding the abandoned Ebdon Goose.

ANIMAL lovers are regularly horrified by the cruel practice of abandoning unwanted pets – particularly cats and dogs.

by PHILIP IRWIN

also another recent arrival, a Muscovy Duck.

"I am sure that this one was dumped as well. There are no other Muscovys on the pond and it, too, is being shunned and threatened by the wild ducks."

Fonmon Pond looks to be an idyllic place for a duck or goose to live, but Denise says that this is not the reality. "As it is, it is obviously suffering and in great distress."

However, a Vale woman is trying to highlight a less high-profile issue – that of people who get a duck or goose as a pet and then grow tired of it.

Denise Cooper, who lives near Fonmon Pond in the village of Fonmon, says that she and her neighbours are currently getting a daily reminder of the distress that it can cause to animals.

She told The GEM: "An abandoned goose has been here for three days, and spends hours showing how distressed it is by honking for hours at a stretch."

"We heard a car pull up late on Sunday night, and it was here in the morning. We get domestic ducks dumped in the pond quite regularly, but this is the first goose."

Denise explained that there were several reasons for the goose's distress. They are social birds and pair for life, so it could be missing a mate.

On the other hand, a gosling could 'imprint' itself on a human, and when that human is not around, it could be just distressed as if it had lost its mate.

Another problem is that domesticated ducks and geese are not cut out to mix it in the wild.

They will be bullied and ostracised by the wild ones, who are also more aggressive when it comes to finding food.

Denise said: "On the pond at the moment, the newly-arrived goose – an Ebdon Goose – and

I would say that over the last two years, six each year have been abandoned and none has survived.

"They were either taken by foxes, or were run over by cars, because they had grown up in a safe domestic environment."

PC Mark Goulding, who is based in Cowbridge but is the Wildlife Protection Officer for south Wales, told The GEM that it was an animal welfare issue, but was a very difficult one to prove.

He said that unless there was solid evidence of a person dumping the birds, it would always be hard to take action.

Denise Cooper said that she had called the RSPCA, who said it was an offence to dump ducks or geese, and that she was expecting an inspector to call and advise on a course of action.

The meeting was a brains trust evening where Steve and Mike J and I try to answer questions from the floor on any computer-related matters.

The first topic was how to disable my network card to avoid interfering with the unprotected network! (Right-click on the wireless icon in the left of the Task Bar and click Disable.)

"I don't know if it can

Penarth Computer Club answers some questions

WHEN my laptop is used at club meetings, the projector reduces my screen resolution to a level it can handle.

The result is that my screen looks quite different from what I am used to at home and slows me down a bit. For the audience, it means that the icons on screen are larger and easier to read.

At the last meeting,

my wireless network

picked up a new local

network that wasn't

pro-

tected by a password.

The meeting was a

brains

trust

evening

where Steve and Mike J

and I try to answer

questions

from the

floor

on any

computer-

related

matters.

Consider portability.

If you want to carry it

around the house or

around the country, it

could be a laptop or a

notebook or a sophisti-

cated telephone. If it will

be staying put on a desk,

then the same money

spent on a desktop will

give you more "bang for your buck" as Steve said.

Anyone starting out

from scratch knowing

nothing about computers

was advised to spend

some time reading

computing maga-

zines.

Ignore ones that are

high-tech and read the

Stitch and Bitch boost BHF

COWBRIDGE Stitch and Bitch held a craft afternoon tea at the Lesser Hall recently and raised £725 for the British Heart Foundation.

Coffee for Marie Curie

THE Marie Curie Llanwit Major Support Group recently raised £370 for the charity.

"We would like to thank Ann and Roger Fry for the use of their home for our annual coffee morning. We should also like to thank everyone who supported this event," a spokeswoman said.

COLWINSTON FRIENDS GET-TOGETHER

Fundraising night will provide toys for pre-school youngsters



Pictures courtesy of Gemma Griffiths Photography



FAMILY and friends of Colwinston pre-school had a "great night" raising funds while being entertained by local band Helter Skelter.

It was a very enjoyable and successful fundraising night, and the money raised will go towards helping both the ongoing running costs of the committee and the purchase of some new educational toys such as Jolly Phonics for the children.

Air Cadets flying high for the Royal British Legion...

AIR CADETS from 372 (Barry) Squadron were recently a familiar sight at Tesco's in Barry selling poppies for the Royal British Legion – and raised £1,700.

The top fundraising Cadet this year was Adam Wood, who collected £377 by himself, dedicating many hours to supporting the poppy appeal.

Steve Whitehorn from the Royal British Legion paid tribute to the Cadets: "I am pleased that the Air Cadets have again supported the Royal British Legion this year and have raised this magnificent sum of money; which will help and support ex-service personnel in our community."

Flight Lieutenant Jason Horton, Officer Commanding 372 Squadron, commented: "I am immensely proud of these fine young men and women who have again worked hard to support the work of the Royal British Legion".

The Cadets were Megan Palmer-Wood, Adam Wood, Georgia Poulakis, Sam Lazenbury, Kieren Long, Leah Veale,



Corporal Sam Lazenbury and Cadet Steph Jones selling poppies.

Bethan Hopkins, Anthony Gent and Steph Jones.

While the Cadets enjoy many varied activities, which the ATC provide, they are also encouraged to give something back to their communities.

Last year, they raised more than £6,000 – helping many community organisations, including the Royal Air Forces Association and MacMillan Cancer. Cadets undertake many exciting activities and opportunities, which include flying, gliding, shooting, sports, adventure training, team

building exercises, expeditions, visits and field craft training and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme expeditions.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron has vacancies for young men and women between 13–18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm–9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall) or you can contact the Squadron on 01446 747734; or email oc.372@aircadets.org for more information about joining or the Air Training Corps.

WINTER SERVICING

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A Glamorgan GEM Advertisement Feature

Most drivers are ignoring big freeze guidelines

THREE out of four UK drivers will not be taking any steps to make sure their cars are prepared for winter – despite last year's sub-zero temperatures and snowfalls which caused chaos on the roads.

All the major motoring organisations advise motorists to carry out a range of checks and safety measures and the Met Office is predicting a colder winter than in recent years.

Yet a survey undertaken by Motorpoint, the UK car supermarket, saw 75 per cent of respondents admit

they would be motorising on without precautions and hoping for the best.

The statistics are not in their favour. The AA puts extra patrols on call, because they expect the number of breakdowns to almost double during particularly cold spells.

Another breakdown service reports 50 per cent of winter calls for help are caused by battery problems.

Motorpoint operations director Paul Winfield said: "As the first automotive retailer to be a member of RoadSafe, we would always recommend our customers listen to their motoring organisation's advice on winter motoring – and also to take advantage of the low-cost winter preparation checks most garages now offer."

COLD WEATHER MOTORING – Follow the experts' advice

WHEN it comes to preparing for winter, the experts at the Automobile Association know what they are talking about.

So, any motorist would be well advised to take heed of their advice.

Winter is the season requiring most care and preparation if you're to stay safe and avoid a breakdown.

Here's the AA's general advice for safe and trouble-free driving through the cold, dark months ahead...

Battery and electrics

Lights, heaters and wipers put high demands on the car battery. If your driving is mainly dark rush-hour trips, the battery will give out eventually.

Batteries rarely last longer than five years. Replacing one near the end of its life can save a lot of time and inconvenience at the side of the road.

- Avoid running electrical systems any longer than necessary – turn the heater fan down and switch the heated rear window off once windows are clear.

- If the car stands idle for most of the weekend, a regular overnight trickle charge is a good idea to give the battery a chance to revive.

- Turn off non-essential electrical loads like lights, rear screen heater and wipers before trying to start the engine.

- Use the starter in short five-second bursts if the engine doesn't start quickly, leaving 30 seconds between attempts to allow the battery to recover.

Antifreeze

A continuous squealing noise as soon as the engine is started is a sign the water pump is frozen – it's the fan belt slipping on the pulley.

The cylinder block could be frozen, too. Stop the engine immediately and allow it to thaw out.

This may take several days unless the car can be moved to a heated garage.

- If the car begins to overheat a few miles from home, it's likely that the radiator has frozen, preventing coolant from circulating.

- Stop straightforward, to avoid serious damage and allow the radiator to thaw.

- Antifreeze costs only a

few pounds, but a frozen and cracked engine block will cost hundreds of pounds to repair.

- Most modern cars use long-life antifreeze – it's important to use the right type and avoid mixing different types. Check the handbook or ask a dealer for advice.

- Glycol-based antifreeze should be changed at least every two years.

- You need a 50-50 mix of antifreeze and water in the cooling system for winter. This gives maximum protection down to -34° centigrade, and without it, severe engine damage costing hundreds of pounds can occur.

Vision

Keep the windscreen and other windows clear – if your vision is obscured through dirt, snow or even sticker-infested car windows, you could face a hefty fine.

Clear snow from the roof as well as from windows, as this can fall onto the windscreen obscuring your view. It can be a hazard to other road users as well.

Dazzle from a low winter sun can be a particular problem.

- Improve vision by making sure that the windscreen is

clean both inside and out. Scratches, abrasion and chips on the outside can also worsen the dazzling effect of the sun.

- Greasy smears on the screen that don't go with use of a normal screenwash additive will require a little elbow grease.

Try using a cream glass polish with a slight abrasive action. If that doesn't work, then try dishwasher powder dissolved in a little water.

Use clean kitchen paper to clean a small area at a time and try not to go back over a patch you've just done.

- Use air conditioning for faster demisting and to reduce condensation on cold windows.

- Check windscreen wipers and replace if necessary.

- Make sure that wipers are switched off in the park position when leaving the car, when there's risk of freezing.

If you don't and the blades freeze to the screen, you could damage the blades or wiper motor when you turn the ignition on.

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 24)

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DON'T TAKE RISKS WITH YOUR CAR!

(CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 23)

• Be careful not to press the electric window button out of habit. Hold that button too long if the window is frozen in place and it can burn out the motor, leaving you with an expensive bill! (This one comes from personal

experience at The GEM!)

• Top up windscreen washer fluid and treat with a suitable additive to reduce the chance of freezing. Don't use ordinary engine anti-freeze, as it will damage paint-work.

Visibility

Make sure that all bulbs are working and that lenses are clean. When roads are really mucky, you might need to clean lights after every journey.

Keep the number plates clean, too, as you can be fined if they are dirty and illegible.

If you have to clear snow from the car, it's important to clear it from the lights - front and back - as well as

from the glass and roof.

You must use headlights when visibility is seriously reduced. You may also use front or rear fog lights but these must be switched off when visibility improves, as they can dazzle other road users and obscure your brake lights.

Tires

The AA recommends at least 3mm of tread for winter motoring, and certainly no less than 2mm.

Don't reduce tyre pressures to get more grip - it doesn't work, and reduces stability.

It's rare to see snow chains unless you live in an isolated area hit with heavy snow, and where the roads are not cleared. They must be removed to drive on a metalled road without a reasonable covering of snow.

Consider changing to winter or all season tyres - these have a higher silica content in the tread which prevents it hardening at lower temperatures, and therefore gives better grip in cold wet conditions.

Before you go...

Get up at least 10 minutes early to give you time to prepare the car.

Don't drive off like a tank commander, with a tiny hole cleared in the windscreen. Clear all windows using a scraper and de-icer.

Use a cigarette lighter to warm a key for a

frozen lock. Don't breathe on the lock, as the moisture will condense and freeze.

Plan routes to favour major roads which are more likely to have been cleared and gritted.

Put safety before punctuality when the bad weather closes in. Allow extra time for winter journeys, but be prepared for the inevitability of being late for work due to unexpected delay.

Driving in snow and ice

Gentle manoeuvres are the key to safe driving - stopping distances are 10 times longer in ice and snow.

• Wear comfortable, dry shoes for driving. Cumberbome, snow-covered boots will slip on the pedals.

• Pull away in second gear, easing your foot off the clutch gently, to avoid wheel-spin.

• Up hill - avoid having to stop part way up by waiting until it is clear of other cars, or by leaving plenty of room to the car in front.

Keep a constant speed, choosing the most suitable gear well in advance, to avoid having to change down on the hill.

• Down hill - reduce your speed before the hill, use a low gear and try to avoid using the brakes. Leave as much room as possible between you and the car in front. If you have to

use brakes, then apply them gently. Release the brakes and de-clutch if the car skids.

• Automatic transmission - under normal driving conditions (motorways, etc) it's best to select 'Drive' and let the gearbox do the work throughout the full gear range.

In slippery, snowy conditions it's best to select '2', which limits the gear changes and also makes you less reliant on the brakes.

Some autos have a 'Winter' mode, which locks out first gear to reduce the risk of wheel spin. Check the handbook.

If you get stuck, straighten the steering

and clear the snow from the wheels.

Put a sack or old rug in front of the driving wheels to give the tyres

some grip. Once on the move again, try not to stop until you reach firmer ground.

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Don't get caught out this winter!

Why should I fit winter tyres?

More than half of UK motorists admit feeling less safe driving in the winter, yet many of us do little to prepare our cars for the colder weather. Research commissioned by TyreSafe, the UK's leading tyre safety organisation, found the biggest worry for drivers in the winter is that they are more likely to have an accident as the roads feel more slippery.

Switching to winter tyres could dramatically increase your safety over the entire winter period and could even save you money. They're constructed to give you a much better grip, reducing your stopping distances on wet or icy roads. And because they are specially designed to operate in temperatures below 7°C, their wear rate is significantly better than normal 'summer' tyres in the colder winter months!

Last year, drivers struggled without winter tyres

- 54% of drivers said they felt less safe when driving in the winter.
- 45% of drivers said their biggest fear about driving in the winter was that they were more likely to have an accident as the roads felt more slippery.
- 1 in 3 drivers skidded on Britain's roads.
- 15% were involved in, or witnessed, an accident.
- 12% only narrowly avoided a collision.
- 1 in 6 drivers had to abandon their journey.

Let's put a stop to accidents this winter

These stopping distances prove you're less likely to get in a scrape if you switch to winter tyres.

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Be aware of Highways Agency's winter campaign

THIS year, the AA is supporting the Highways Agency's 'Make time for winter' campaign.

The Highways Agency has more than

500 winter service vehicles on standby, but crews need time and space to get ahead of traffic and keep the network clear. You can help by planning your journey around the weather:

- Be informed – check traffic and

weather.

- Be prepared – check your vehicle and carry an emergency kit.

- Be aware – winter teams need time and space to do their job

- Be wise – conditions may change, drive with care.

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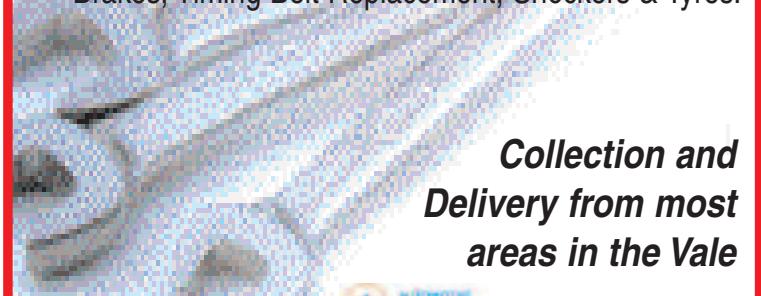
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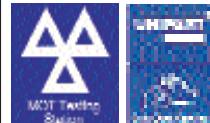
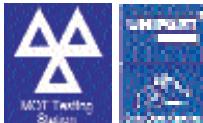
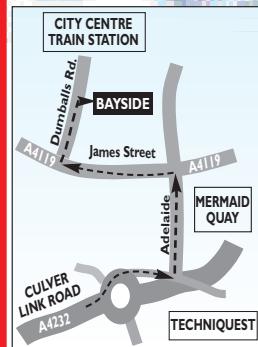
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CADETS WILL BRING SOME CHRISTMAS JOY



Barry Cadets helped a local organisation supply Christmas gifts for local children.

SADLY, there are still many children in this country who are at risk of receiving nothing at Christmas, but thanks to local Foresters' members, together with volunteer cadets from the Barry ATC 372 Squadron, 150 Christmas gift packs for sick and underprivileged children were recently put together to be distributed in the local area.

Foresters, an international financial services organisation which has operated in the UK, US and Canada for more than 135 years, is working with Cash for Kids, the charity umbrella brand for Bauer Radio stations, to support the 2011 Christmas Toy Appeal – and help light up the lives of thousands of less fortunate children in the area.

Foresters is committed to hands-on help through its members. Cash for Kids highlighted that there is always a shortage of presents for babies so the local Forester branch, St David 211, combined with the cadets to create the gifts for underprivileged babies.

The presents included useful items such as wipes and creams, as these children do not have the same advantages that our children and grandchildren do and are in need of these necessities.

In the UK last year, Foresters supported more than 100 charities and raised over £3 million for those charities and other community partners.

In 2010, Foresters sponsored the Christmas Toy Radio Appeal in nine locations and raised almost £2 million which provided grants and toys to over

200,000 underprivileged children and families in the UK.

This year, Foresters are sponsoring 12 locations, including Wales and western England.

Barry ATC 372 Squadron is open to young people 13 years and over and meets at its headquarters situated behind AG Adams, next to the Memorial Hall, every Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7pm.

Busy November for Y Bont Faen school pupils

PUPILS and parents at Y Bont Faen Primary School had a busy November, as they prepare for Christmas.

On Friday, November 11, the sound of Bollywood was coming from the school as guests enjoyed a 'Wii and curry night' courtesy of the friends of Y Bont Faen PTA.

Chefs Richard Watson

and Dean Thomas cooked up Eastern delights to raise funds, while a few rounds of Wii resort and Just Dance provided entertainment on a grand scale.

Parents paid handsomely to watch head teacher Meic Griffiths perform, along with year-2 teacher Mrs Hayman and teaching assistants Mr Cottle and Mrs Rees.

They even paid more for encores!

The lighting and the staging were all just perfect, thanks to the PTA, who had just handed the school a cheque to pay for the new purpose-built 'Stackastage' – complete with ramps and LED lighting.

This has come just in time for the Christmas plays and we hope that the raised stage will provide both inspiration and a physical platform for our pupils' talents.

This year, the school has once again volunteered to be a drop off point for the 'Operation Christmas Child' shoe box collections.

Last year, 160 boxes were sent all over the world from Y Bont Faen!

If you have missed the deadline, you can make a 'virtual box' up online and still donate to this very worthy cause! Thank you to everyone who has kindly made up boxes for those less fortunate than ourselves.

The PTA has also organised a 'Bags2school' collection to recycle unwanted clothes, shoes and soft toys and are already up to 400 kg.

The Y Bontfaen family is being very green at the moment, working towards their Eco School Green Flag award, so please support them where you can!

JAYNE MORRIS

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned development:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development that may affect a Conservation Area / Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/01028/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Retention of change of use to mixed retail and beauty salon

Location/Lleoliad: Skin Studio, 112/113, Glebe Street, Penarth

Penarth

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/01076/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Repair and replacement of part of roof. Repair boundary wall

Location/Lleoliad: Old St. Nicholas Church, St. Nicholas Road, Barry

Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/01132/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Retention of kitchen extract flue and air inlet unit

Location/Lleoliad: Springbank Nursing Home, College Road, Barry

Grade II

Departure from Development Plan / Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/01118/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed rear extension over existing bar to form bedrooms, internal alterations and new ancillary building to form micro-brewery, arts and crafts shops and museum

Location/Lleoliad: The Old Brewery, Eagle Road, Eglwys Brewis

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Gall mawnyll eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Dated / Dyddefdig: 1st December, 2011

Rob Thomas
Head of Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry, CF63 4RT



ABOVE: Park Independent Funeral Directors' Christmas Memorial Carol Service was attended by almost 200 people.

'Emotional and inspiring' Local people remember their loved ones at carol service

WITHIN two short years, Park Independent Funeral Directors' Christmas Memorial carol service has become an indispensable event in Barry for those wanting to remember their loved ones at a special time of the year.

Nearly 200 people attended this year's carol service on Saturday, November 26.

Lindsay Ellis, principal of the firm, said: "It was so heartfelt and moving to see how many attended. It was officiated by Rev Clive Jones and was an uplifting and emotional occasion.

"I hope that it brought great comfort to many bereaved families at this special time of the

year." The service was open to everyone who wanted to remember a loved one, regardless of which funeral director they had used.

Lyndsay went on: "After the service it was overwhelming how many returned to the funeral home for mince pies, mulled wine and a moment to place their memorial tags with messages on our Christmas tree.

"The comments on the service were very positive and it was an honour that I could do this.

"To see the community brought together was so emotional, sharing memories of loved ones and witnessing the release of doves to symbolise this.

"I wish to thank the Assembly Member Jane Hutt for her kind

words and attendance, Dave Follett and members of New Jerusalem Church for all their support during the year, and for letting us use their garden as a Garden Of Reflection, the Vale Of Glamorgan Brass Band for their outstanding performance and Rev Clive Jones for a personal and comforting service.

"This service also could not have been done solely by myself if it wasn't for the loyalty, hard work and commitment of our staff, who worked so hard."

One woman contacted The GEM and said: "I was wondering whether to go to the service to remember my husband. I decided to go, and was so pleased I went.

"It was emotional and inspiring."

Schools support Velindre at Christmastime

WITH environmental issues high on everyone's agenda these days, Velindre Cancer Centre is encouraging everyone to think green, and think

Velindre this Christmas.

Among those taking part this year are Cadoxton Primary School in Barry and Croesy Primary School in Pencoed.

Angela Morris of Croesy Primary said:

"Each year, every class is inundated with hundreds of cards sent between the children and if the money spent on them could be given to Velindre instead, many families dealing with cancer would benefit."

To get involved, contact Velindre Fundraising on 0292 0316211, email info@velindrefundraising.com or visit the website www.velindrefundraising.com

BIG SCREEN

BIG Screen's after the loss of a considerable amount of money, George and his family are rescued by Clarence (Henry Travers), a compassionate angel.

Big Screen's Christmas present this year is the seasonal family favourite It's a Wonderful Life (U) which will be shown on Thursday, December 8 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

It stars James Stewart as depressed businessman George Bailey and Donna Reed as his wife, Contemplating suicide

Peter Pan means pantomime time

COWBRIDGE, with Llanblethian Town Council, has engaged the services of a travelling entertainment group – to provide the town with a pantomime, Peter Pan, which will take place on December 15, in the Town Hall.

Expected to be a sell-out, the pantomime is intended for children and parents and will be full of the usual fun and frolics; a goodie, a baddie, sweets galore, daft songs, silly dances and even sillier jokes.

Commenting on the venture, the chairman of the town council's Town Hall Committee, Coun David Morris, said: "It should be huge fun and provide the whole family with a great evening of enter-

tainment.

"We want to increase the use of the newly-refurbished town hall for community events and the pantomime should be a cracker!"

Tickets are priced at £5 and are available from the town hall office, Barnes Dry Cleaners and, on Sunday, November 27, at the Lesser Hall.

Tree lighting
YSTRADOWEN will be holding its annual lighting of the Christmas tree with Christmas carols, mulled wine and mince pies on the village green at 7pm on Saturday, December 3. All are welcome.

Getting in mood for Christmas

COWBRIDGE Choral Society will present 'A Christmas Celebration' with carols on Saturday, December 10, at 7pm in Holy Cross Church.

The barbershop group, Mr Geoff Howells, organist, and two other soloists will also entertain.

Tickets are on sale from WG Davies of Cowbridge, Chris Williams, Opticians of Llanwit Major and choir members. Children under-12 admitted free of charge.

Check the website: www.cowbridgechorscholarsociety.co.uk

Talented performers shine in Music in the Vale competition

LOCAL young musicians captivated audiences last weekend during two stunning Music in the Vale finalist concerts at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

The annual competition saw singers aged eight to 24 competing on Saturday and instrumentalists aged eight to 21 on Sunday.

On Saturday morning it was touch and go that half of the singers would be head, as the secretary received a phone call at 7.30am advising her that one of the adjudicators was unable to attend due to illness!

The fabulous Justine Viani, an Australian-British soprano, whose future engagements include the title role of Tosca for Opera de Baugé in July 2012, stepped into the breach and made it from Merthyr Tydfil to Cowbridge by 9am in time to hear the young singers perform.

Ms Viani heard 22 juniors aged eight to 12, with four to go through to the evening concert final.

She also heard the ensemble category, who could have been aged eight to 24 but were all 13 and under!

All three ensembles that competed were put through to the final. Jeffrey Howard, a well-known vocal coach and accompanist, was the other adjudicator.

Mr Howard heard 12 intermediates, aged 13-16 and seven seniors and was hard pressed to choose four from each category to progress to the final. For many of the young people taking part it was their first ever competition.

The four junior finalists were Rebekah Marie West, age 11 of Dinas Powys; Maddie M Carver, aged 10 of Penarth; Guy Roberts, aged 12 of Cardiff; and Bibiana Viazanni, aged 9 of Merthyr Tydfil.

The ensembles included two choirs from the Cathedral School Llandaff, Cantemus and the Junior Boys Choir, and a duo 'Bibiana and Molly' who met at the Louise Ryan vocal school in Cardiff.

The intermediates: Jodi Bird 13; Joseph Keenan 16; Megan Hain 13; all of Penarth and Taylor Flynn 13, of Swansea had the honour of rounding off the first half of the evening.

After a 20-minute interval it was the turn of the seniors: Jonathan Farey (French horn) 20, Cardiff; Megan Kirwan (cello) 17, Monmouth; Emry Honeybun

After a 20-minute interval, the senior singers took to the stage.

These were: Adam Gilbert 22, of Cowbridge currently studying at the Guildhall in London; Aoife O'Connell 23; Grace Wain 21; and Holly-Anna Lloyd 22; who are all studying at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff.

Results:

Junior soloists:
Winner – Bibiana Viazanni, runner-up – Rebekah Marie West.

Intermediate soloist:
Winner – Jodi Bird, runner-up – Joseph Keenan.

Senior soloist:
Winner – Grace Wain, runner-up Holly-Anna Lloyd.

A prize was also awarded to Adam Gilbert for the 'Most Promising Young Singer living in the Vale of Glamorgan'.

Sunday's competition for young instrumentalists started at 10am with Rosin Biss, principle cello for Welsh National Opera adjudicating the intermediate musicians, aged 12-16.

Rosie had the tough task of choosing just four from a group of 20.

Peter Fielding, the retired Welsh National Opera sub-principle bass clarinet, was given the task of adjudicating 14 juniors (8-11) and six seniors (17-21).

He also had the slightly easier task of adjudicating the ensemble category, as there was only two entered but he still had to ensure they were of sufficient calibre to go through.

The challenge of opening the evening concert was again given to the youngest musicians: Jack Ollier (recorder) aged 8 from Barry; Aisha Kala-Palmer (piano) aged 10 from Caerphilly; Rhiannon Mainwaring (French horn) aged 11 from Port Talbot; and Sarosh Adenwalla (flute) from Cardiff.

Next to perform were the intermediates: Robin Gordana Tait (piano) 14, Cowbridge; Joseph Keenan (saxophone) 16, Penarth; Clarke Alonzi (violin) 15, Bridgend and Rachel Starritt (piano) 16, Bridgend.

The Ensembles: Trio Cataro, all from the Vale, and The Lovell-Jones Boys of Cardiff were given the honour of rounding off the first half of the evening.

After a 20-minute interval it was the turn of the seniors: Jonathan Farey (French horn) 20, Cardiff; Megan Kirwan (cello) 17, Monmouth; Emry Honeybun



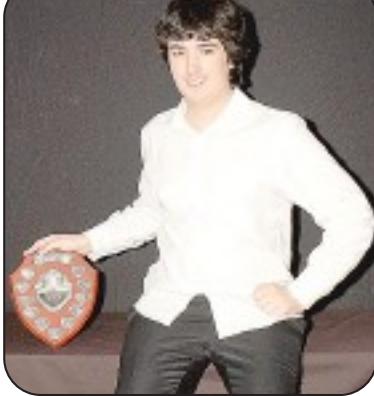
Adam Gilbert of Cowbridge.



Joe Atkin-Reeve with Vale AM Jane Hutt.



Jodi Bird from Penarth with Vale Council Leader Coun Gordon Kemp.



Clarke Alonzi from Bridgend.



Grace Wain.

Bibiana Viazanni.

NEWS ROUND-UP FROM BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

Children in Need

B A R R Y Comprehensive School's pupils and staff supported this year's Children in Need with a fabulous collection of fundraising activities.

Pupils paid £1 each to wear their own clothes for the day, while year-12 Welsh Baccalaureate students organised the activities.

The sixth formers put in lots of hard work and showed real dedication by staying late after school and coming in early to help prepare a massive range of activities, including laser tag,

boxing kangaroos, sumo wrestling, pugil stick duels, balance beam battles, giant connect-4, giant buzz-wire, giant jenga and a basketball challenge as well as filling the sports hall with giant inflatables.

Josh Bell (year-8) won the basketball challenge by shooting the most basketballs against the clock.

Everyone joined in the spirit if the day, continuing the success of last year's event to produce a great day for

Barry Comprehensive School and a sizable donation to Children in Need.

Off by heart

B A R R Y Comprehensive pupils Nick Currie and Adam Owens attended the BBC's 'Off By Heart' Shakespeare competition in Bristol, on Friday, November 11.

The boys, from year-9, won the school heats run by the English and drama departments in the summer term before moving on to the national competition.

Nick and Adam competed against 112 other pupils from all over Wales and the south west of England.

They had practised and perfected a famous Shakespeare speech which they performed in front of judges from the BBC and the world of theatre.

Although they were not one of the four pupils chosen to go through to the next round, both pupils were commended for their individual performances and, throughout the process, were a real credit to Barry Comprehensive School.



Ready to enter the laser tag arena.



ABOVE: Nick and Adam at the 'Off by Heart' competition.

LEFT: An ambitious move on the giant Jenga.

You can now find The GEM on Facebook - just visit www.facebook.co.uk/gemnews and keep in touch with what's going on in your area!

PUPILS GET THEIR OWN BACK ON TEACHERS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

PUPILS at Rhws primary School got their own back on Children in Need day – while raising money for charities.

Pupils donated money to come to school in spotty clothing, pyjamas or as their favourite teacher. They took part in a charity cake sale and hair braiding, and competed against each other to see who could bring in the most small change; all brilliantly organised by the school council pupils.

But the culmination of the day was when the teachers and school council members, in front of the whole school, took part in a 'beat the teacher' quiz.

Teachers were asked questions on a range of categories and if the school council member got it right, then the teacher was forced to do a forfeit, chosen by their class members. T

The forfeits ranged from putting feet in baked beans, to getting a custard pie in the face – from juggling bananas wearing funny glasses, to singing while dunking their face in rice pudding!

The children loved this day and finally got their own back! The school raised over £630 for Children in Need and a children's charity in Nicaragua. Well done, Rhws Primary School!

KELSEY BIBEY
(Rhws Primary School)



Year-6 pupils in costume.



2R pupils in costume.



Reception pupils in costume.



4M pupils in costume.



The audience eagerly await the show.



Mr Baker does his forfeit

2B pupils in costume



The year-6 host with the most.



ABOVE and LEFT:
The school council panel.



RIGHT:
1G pupils in costume.





ABOVE, front: Alun Cairns MP and Bob Neill MP, with Dinas Powys residents (back row).

'Essex boy' home from home at Gavin & Stacey's!

BARRY has become a must-visit location for Essex residents as a result of the **Gavin & Stacey** TV show, according to Local Government Minister and 'Essex boy' **Bob Neill MP**.

He visited south Wales last week to gain a better understanding of

issues in the area and included Dinas Powys in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The visit with the Vale MP, Alun Cairns, included a call to the Essex home from the hit BBC comedy, which is really a property in Dinas Powys.

Both sides started brightly, playing the ball to feet in order to nullify the windy conditions.

While it was an even contest in terms of possession, the home side's superior movement meant they were penetrating more and looked the most likely to score.

This proved to be the case after 10 minutes when Gethin Jennings broke the deadlock following a flowing team move.

Llanwit striker Stephen Phillips beat the Town left back out wide and squared the ball to Tom Bevan who in return slid the ball to the incoming Jennings, who hit the ball into the roof of the net for a superb goal.

Llanwit had chances to double their lead but

the Vale of Glamorgan had two children, Simon and Kathryn, and a stepson, Toby.

Pat, who is originally from London, and now lives in Barry, is also a former teacher.

Many local people will remember her as head of lower school at Bryn Hafren.

Although retired, Pat still assists at local schools and as a former PE teacher, is keen to keep fit and has recently taken up playing bowls.

To find out more about us, visit www.sigbi.org/barry-and-district

CD

Welcome to two new members

AT the recent super meeting of Soroptimist International Barry and District, president Norma Reynolds welcomed two new members to the club, Sue Richards and Pat Salt.

Since retiring from her position as deputy head of St Mary the Virgin Primary School in Bute Town, Sue has put her teaching skills to good use at Techniquest, where she is a science communicator and helper.

Sue lives with her hus-

band Tony in Penarth and has two children, Simon and Kathryn, and a stepson, Toby.

Pat, who is originally from London, and now lives in Barry, is also a former teacher.

Many local people will remember her as head of lower school at Bryn Hafren.

Although retired, Pat still assists at local schools and as a former PE teacher, is keen to keep fit and has recently taken up playing bowls.

To find out more about us, visit www.sigbi.org/barry-and-district

CD

Blockbuster show at the Art Central



ABOVE: Coun John Clifford, pictured with Vale Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, officially opened the 'Light' exhibition.

A large, convivial Glamorgan, officially opened the event that exhibits paintings, ceramics and sculptures.

The gallery is open to the public, with free admission, from 10am - 4pm, Tuesday - Saturday, until January 14.

Coun John Clifford, Mayor of the Vale of

IN BRIEF
A gift and craft fair at the Barry YMCA Hub on Sunday, December 11 between 10am and 3pm, will raise funds for the charity Delta, which supports deaf children and their families.

RNLI service

THE annual Lifeboat service of nine lessons and carols with the Cavatina Singers, will be held at St Augustine's Church, Penarth, on December 14 at 7pm.

A warm welcome is extended to all and tea, coffee and mince pies will be served afterwards.

Penarth fayre

CHRISTMAS fayre with Santa at Trinity Methodist Church, Penarth, on Saturday, December 10, between 10am-12noon.

Stalls include cakes, Christmas gifts and flowers. Entrance £2 (children admitted free) to include coffee and mince pies and visit to Santa.

Members of PODS will be singing at 10am.

Llanwit AFC get local bragging rights with win over Cowbridge

L L A N W I T
MAJOR Reserves edged out local rivals Cowbridge Town in a robust, but entertaining game at a blustery Windmill Lane.

Both sides started brightly, playing the ball to feet in order to nullify the windy conditions.

While it was an even contest in terms of possession, the home side's superior movement meant they were penetrating more and looked the most likely to score.

This proved to be the case after 10 minutes when Gethin Jennings broke the deadlock following a flowing team move.

Llanwit striker Stephen Phillips beat the Town left back out wide and squared the ball to Tom Bevan who in return slid the ball to the incoming Jennings, who hit the ball into the roof of the net for a superb goal.

Llanwit had chances to double their lead but

LLANTWIT MAJOR RESERVES COWBRIDGE TOWN

2
0

the Town keeper saved chalked off was a bizarre well from Jennings, then Phillips respectively.

Then in a hectic 10 minute period, a total of four goals were scored between the two teams, only to be subsequently disallowed.

First up Jennings thought he had bagged a brace with a fine header but the referee pulled play back for an infringement in the build up.

Next it was Cowbridge's turn to be thwarted, when the visitors' number 6, saw his cross-shot stabbed in on the line by the Town striker, who was adjudged to be in an off-side position.

Then it was the home team's turn to have a goal ruled offside; Phillips' excellent run was spotted by James Austin, the midfield livewire's through ball was brilliantly finished by the big number 9 but to no avail.

The fourth goal

Town had the majority of possession in the midfield area, but just couldn't penetrate the Major back four of Vincent, Major, Grahame and Howles.

Despite 15 minutes of Town pressure Llanwit were still threatening on the counter-attack with Phillips's excellent hold up play and the sheer pace of the enigmatic Tom Mawhinney.

Mawhinney was cynically felled in the penalty area and regular penalty taker Jack Grahame confidently stepped up, only to see his well struck effort spectacularly saved by the Cowbridge guardian.

Mawhinney then had the chance to notch the third goal himself following a mistake by the Town centre back. The youngster had just the keeper to beat, but again the visiting stopper came out on top - to further deter the home team.

Llanwit comfortably saw out the remainder of the game to preserve top

spot in the league.

This was a superb team performance which had a mixture of good work rate and quality and composed football, and with three Llanwit goals disallowed and the Town 'keeper on fine form the scoreline probably flattened the opposition a little.

While an excellent all round performance, there were a few stand out performers for the man of the match award.

Youth players Tom Mawhinney and Tom Howles were exceptional, while Stephen Phillips had his best game in a Llanwit shirt; however the accolade went to Gethin Jennings for his lung bursting work rate in defence and his creative instinct in attack.

Team: M Jackson, T Howles, J Grahame, A Vincent, G Jennings, D Bevan, D Major (Capt), T Mawhinney, S Phillips, T Bevan, J Austin. Subs: L Jennings, L Tracey, I Phillips, S Mawhinney. DC

Just two winners for the three titles at RAF St Athan Golf Club!

EACH year the members of RAF St Athan Golf Club usually has three new champions to congratulate at their annual presentation evening; the junior champion, the lady champion and the club champion; however, this year there were just two golfers who were the proud recipients of the coveted championship titles which were played for on the club's finals day held in September.

The ladies' final saw Jayne Williams compete against Liz Thomas, both players coming runner-up in the same final in 2009 and 2010 respectively, but at the end of the match play game it was Liz who emerged victorious to claim the ladies championship title.

There was not one member of the club who could deny Kyle Harman's family the pride they showed when Kyle was called forward by chairman of play Steve Thomas to collect both the junior and the club championship trophies.

Craig Sherman lost the championship final to Kyle but he led the charge to shake hands and congratulate him, quickly followed by Ryan Harris, who was defeated in the junior final.

RIGHT:
The Harman family was delighted to see Kyle pick up two titles.

Kyle thanked his fellow golfers and his family, his mum for ferrying him around so that he can continue with his sporting activities and a special mention was made for his dad, who unfortunately could not be present owing to work commitments. Kyle said his dad would be very proud of him and RAF St Athan Golf Club members are all very proud of you as well.

Presentation night at RAF St Athan Golf Club is always a well attended event with an array of crystal trophies being awarded to the golfers who have been successful in competitions throughout the year.

This year was no exception, with the table laden with crystal alongside the clubs silverware.

The prestigious competition boards have been updated with the names of the 2012 winners and now become part of the club's history.

There are two awards that are presented each year, with the members not knowing the recipients until they are announced.

The first is the club person of the year and the club committee voted Hugh Williams for the trophy he selflessly carries out on the course - a job too often criticised but seldom congratulated.

The playing commit-



Tudor reigns

COWBRIDGE'S James Tudor landed the UC Better Handicap Hurdle at Ffos Las on Monday on the nine-year-old MickMacMagole.

tee has the decision on

Now, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, took the Gwendraeth Fawr Maiden Hurdle by two lengths from Buddy Bolero.

With the former starting at 9-2, and the latter at 9-1, backers were rewarded with a 55-1 double.

Aberthyn's Tim Vaughan saw his five-year-old Ashes House, partnered by Richard Johnson, romp home a 20 lengths winner of the Digitel.Com Open National Hunt Flat race.

Ashes House a 11-4 chance beat the odds-on favourite Manor Court.

BRIAN LEE

BLOOD DONOR SESSIONS

The Welsh Blood Service will be holding events at Memorial Hall, Bryncoch, Bridgend, December 2 10am - 6pm; Cowbridge Leisure Centre, The Broadshard, Cowbridge, December 4, 10am - 4pm and December 5, 10am - 6pm; Ibis Court, Hermon Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend, December 6, 10am - 6pm; December 7, 10am - 6pm (please call 01443 622193 to make an appointment).

Carol Morgan

Poignant link with 'Bloody April' 1917

1630HRS – the crews of two BE2e's make their final preparations for a sortie over enemy lines – the month was April 1917, the 29th to be exact.

The British and Canadian infantry had gone over the top and faced some of the most impregnable positions in the German Lines, but this battle was fought not only in the mud and trenches on the ground, but also in the air.

The Royal Flying Corp using obsolete planes flew hundreds of missions to pinpoint the German defences and artillery, and directed the British guns to destroy them before the infantry attack.

In what was to be known as Bloody April, the Royal Flying Corps suffered the most appalling casualties, in its and subsequent history of the Royal Air Force.

It defined, by the end of April 1917, the average life expectancy of a new pilot to a matter of days.

At 1645hrs the two aircraft lifted off from the grass strip airfield of Avesnes-le-Comte, to flying Art Obs (Artillery

Observations) over the Chemical Works at Roeux.

The crew of BE2e No 2738 comprised a 25-year-old Welshman from Cadoxton Barry, David Evan Davies, the pilot and his Canadian Observer George Henry Rathbone (aged 21 years), who had only joined 12 Sqn RFC days before on the 05 Apr. The two aircraft made their way towards the east, Arras and the front line...

David Evan Davies, known as 'Dan' was born in Penarthur 1892 to Welsh-speaking Thomas and Ann Davies, a coal tipper from 175 Crogan Hill, Cadoxton - a district of Barry in the Vale.

Like most in Cadoxton, Thomas Davies worked in nearby Barry Docks, and the Davies' were a decidedly working class welsh family.

Like many in the Welsh valleys, education was highly prized, none more so than in the community of Barry; in 1886 the Barry County School open its doors to 110 boys and girls who had been granted scholarships on passing the eleven-plus examination.

Under the Headmastership of Dr

Edgar Jones, Dan attended this school, which had established a formidable reputation as a school of excellence.

In fact, the school under Jones's stewardship inspired generations of pupils, who numbered among their ranks, a Governor of Cyprus, a Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, University, professors, a Liberal MP, a host of lawyers, doctors, industrialists and businessmen, two famous cartoonists and a Secretary to Lloyd George.

It was from this academic foundation that Dan Davies was to earn a place at Cardiff University College. Described as a brilliant scholar, he graduated as a Master of Science..

On leaving university, this gifted young man joined the Civil Service and obtained a posting to the West Indies.

However, like many young men of that era, Dan was not found wanting at the outbreak of the First World War.

Impetuous and keen to do his bit, Dan returned from Colonial Service and enlisted as a Private in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, serving for a year in France before he was recommended for a commission.

sion. He volunteered to be a pilot in the fledgling Royal Flying Corps.

On his commission, his parents presented him with an anthology of prose and verse entitled *The Land of My Fathers – A Welsh Gift Book*.

This book was commissioned by Mrs Lloyd George and published on behalf of the National Fund for Welsh Troops- the sale of which went to provide additional comforts for Welsh regiments at home and abroad.

The flyleaf was inscribed 'To Dan On Your Commission, from Ma and Papa. Love from all at Crogan Hill'. In Dan's own hand he has added 'Lt D E Davies 12 Squadron RFC 8-4-17'.

Following pilot training Dan was posted to 12 Squadron, based at Avesnes-le-Comte, and then into the maelstrom of the bloodiest and most costly episodes in RFC history...

Like so many, Dan's association with the RFC was to be all too short lived...

The battle on the ground for Arleux had been raging for some forty hours, and the lateness of the day meant the light was beginning to fade. There was, however, enough light for one last sortie, the Art Ob flight by our two RFC aircrafts.

The airspace over Arras was being dominated by sheer numbers of Royal Flying Corps operations being flown; however, they did not

have air superiority for this was the hunting ground of the 'Wolves of the Air' – Jasta 11– the famous 'Richthofen Circus'.

It was into the Von Richthofen lair that Dan and his accompanying fellow aircrrew approached at low level.

A contemporary account written in April 1917 by a fellow 12 Sqn Observer, gives an indication of what it was like in the air over the front at that time.

2nd Lt Francis

Penny wrote... "This was my first close-up of the line... I was interested in what was going on below, when suddenly the tat-tat of a machine gun was heard from an enemy aircraft...

"I could see pieces of wing fabric fluttering in the wind where the enemy bullets had gone through.

Between the pilot

and observer was a communication tube, but conversations could hardly be heard above the noise of the engine and exhaust. What the pilot said, cannot be repeated..."

Penny and his pilot were lucky, others were not so fortunate.

Fresh from kills earlier in the day, the Richthofen brothers – Manfred and Lothar – took off from Douai airfield, after spending some time in the presence of their father earlier that afternoon.

Richthofen had already claimed his 49th victory (Lt Richard Applin 19 Sqn flying Spad VII No B1573, shot down at 1205hrs) and his 50th at 1655hrs

– a FEED No 4898 (Jahore No 14) of 18 Sqn piloted by Sgt George Steed and Acting Cpl Alfred Beebee.

Beebee was described by his Commanding Officer as "by far the best gunner/observer we have".

The brothers, flying their Albatros DIII's, encountered the two BE2es of 12 Sqn at 1925hrs near Roeux on the German side of the lines.

The combat report by Manfred von Richthofen describes how he saw the two artillery flyers approaching their front; he found it impudent that these two obsolete, slow and poorly-armed aircrafts would be flying without an escort.

He waved his wings at his brother to signify the start of their attack run.

Increasing their speed, the brothers stalked their prey, manoeuvring the two aircraft into their favourite attack position, under the tail of the two-seater British

aircraft.

After a short fight, a burst of machine guns fired into the B2e of Dan Davies collapsed the wings of the aircraft.

When the aircraft hit the ground, near trenches close to Roeux, it caught fire. Dan Davies and George Rathbone were Richthofen's 51st victims.

Lothar engaged the other aircraft in the flight flown by Lt's Cyril Howard Pile and John Howard Westlake, and wrote afterwards that he observed his elder brother's engagement barely 500 feet away.

"I had time to study the struggle and I must say that I myself could not have done better. He rushed his man, and both were turning round each other. Suddenly, the enemy machine reared".

He believed the pilot, Dan Davies, had been struck by a bullet... "The wings collapsed and the plane fell... I flew toward my brother and we congratulated

each other by waving." Richthofen flew on, claiming his 52nd victory at 1940hrs (a Sopwith Triplane No N5463 of 8 Sqn RNAS, flown by Flt Sub-Lt Albert Edward Cuzner).

The two B2e's crashed in close proximity to each other.

The aircrrew's bodies were never recovered and are commemorated, along with more than 1000 other airmen of the Royal Naval Air Service, Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force, on the beautiful colonnade Memorial to the Missing in Arras.

In all, the RFC lost 131 aircraft during that 'Bloody April' in 1917.

David Evan 'Dan' Davies is also commemorated on the Barry War Memorial Hall Memorial.

ROB LOVESEY

My link to this story. I have that anthology of prose and verse, so lovingly inscribed by his proud parents... Land of My Fathers – A Welsh Gift Book.

NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Tramping through the marshes of Wentloog!

RECENTLY, William took his party of seven walkers up to Marshfield, assuring them that this would be a totally flat walk in Wales, which is rather unusual.

On a damp and misty morning, they parked near the village church of St Mary's and headed out through the churchyard towards St Brides Wentlooe.

Wentloog (or Wentloog) derives from the anglicised corruption of Gwynllwg, a 5th or 6th century ruler of the coastal plain that stretched between the Rhymney and Usk rivers.

The Gwent levels back then would have been a salt marsh, regularly covered by the tide, and even to this day can still be very wet and muddy.

The small hamlet of St Bride's Wentloog stands on reclaimed land from the Bristol Channel, behind the sea wall and is criss-crossed with drainage ditches known locally as reens, from the Welsh Rhewyn.

Reens are ditches or small canals used to turn areas of wetland at sea level into pasture land and the water levels are controlled by a series of sluice gates or pumps, which allows the land to become wet at certain times of the year in order to improve the grass.

Originally, back in history, this area would have been drained by the Romans and today it is monitored by the Caldicot and Wentloog Internal Drainage Board, and because of the abundance of wildlife attracted to the area, large parts have been designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Following quiet paths beside the reens, which are regularly cleaned and dredged, the group reached St Bride's Church, dedicated to the Irish St Bridget, with its distinctive leaning tower. In the porch a plaque commemorates the disastrous flood of 1606 caused by very high spring tides combined with a torrential storm.

The flood broke through the sea

wall defences that were in place at the time and drowned people as far away as Marshfield, which is some two miles inland.

They tramped on along muddy paths and across footbridges and arrived at the sea wall close to the Lighthouse Inn. The current sea wall stretches for more than 15 miles from just south of Chepstow to the eastern edge of Cardiff, with only one break at the River Usk.

Turning west along the sea wall, the group gazed over the salt marsh and mud flats and spotted eider ducks, oyster catchers and curlews feeding.

Moving on, they took a short break at Peterstone Gout, a tidal flap situated on the Usk estuary that controls the outfall of the sea near Peterstone Wentloog. It is the main drainage point from the Wentloog levels, and is monitored by Gwent Wildlife Trust.

Enjoying a short break, the group spotted an egret before continuing their journey for around half a mile, to then turn inland and join a track leading to Peterstone Wentloog.

Then the group headed back out across the levels towards Marshfield, where on the outskirts of the village, great care was taken where the public footpath crosses the four tracks of the main Cardiff to Newport railway line.

All that was left was a trek through Marshfield via the local playing field where they enjoyed a lunch stop before joining Church Lane and making their way back to St Mary's Church.

On December 7, meet at 9am in the viaduct car park, Porthkerry Park for a 10.5-mile moderate circular walk taking in Penmark and Llancafn; contact William on 01446 747239.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, contact the walk leader for advice.

JOY STRANGWARD

Primary school charity fun day

ON Friday, November 18, hats at home.
Cadoxton Primary School Council's fund day went ahead with help from the teachers.
There was a cake sale, a second hand book sale and children paid 50p to enter the 'spotty hat' competition. Children had made their own spotty

hats at home.
There was a winner in every class and they won a chocolate orange each.
A total of £400 was raised and lots of fun was had all round!
The money will be split between Ty Hafan and Children in Need. JH

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS - KING'S SQUARE, BARRY
FRIDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Vale of Glamorgan Council has made an Order under Section 16A, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:
WHEREAS The Vale of Glamorgan Council as Highway Authority is satisfied that traffic on the streets or parts thereof as listed in column 2 of the Schedule should on 2nd December 2011 be restricted to enable the holding of a relevant event, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, do HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulations shall be observed:-

That, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof listed in schedule 1 shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles with the exception of Emergency Services vehicles and resident permit holders between the hours specified in column 3 of the schedule.

The penalty for infringement of this regulation is a fine not exceeding £1,000.

Schedule 1

Column 1
Friday 2nd December 2011

The area to be closed is Holton Road Barry from its junction with Ty-Newydd Road to a point 50m east of its junction with Llanwit Street.

Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

Dated this 1st day of December 2011

**M Punter, Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA**

Column 2

18.00 – 21.00



Pupils go on two-week adventure

IT has been a very exciting two weeks for pupils in years 5 and 6 at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig.

Firstly, year-5 children spent five days at Abernant Lake Hotel in Llanwrtyd Wells, mid Wales. Here the children experienced climbing, abseiling, canoeing, archery and many other activities.

"It was a very exciting place to go, full of challenging activities for us all", was the view of Callum Jones, a pupil in year-5.

Year-6 went on their annual trip to the Urdd camp in Llangrannog, west Wales. Here they tried skiing, horse riding, trampolining and tobogganing.

Elin Jones, a year-6 pupil, said: "I'm already looking forward to com-

ing back in year-7, it's great being away with all my friends."

On a lighter note, three male staff members are unshaven after year-6 teacher Mr McAvoy finally succumbed to the constant itching and caving in!

Several fathers have joined our campaign to raise money in the 'November' campaign and we thank them for their support!

RJ

Dinas Powys FC earn a morale-boosting victory

PLAYING into the wind in the first-half Dinas struggled to get going in what was a poor start to the game, but they took advantage of the wind at their backs after the break to get a deserved three points.

Robbie Fowler had an early chance to open the scoring in the first minute but Mark Elliott got down well to save at his near post.

A few minutes later the same player had a shot for a penalty when he went down inside the area but the referee waved play on.

The visitors enjoyed plenty of possession in the opening half-hour but Dinas keeper Dave Burnett comfortably

Stillman inspires Sports win

CARDIFF HSOB 3xv	13
SULLY SPORTS 2xv	54

SULLY SPORTS 2nd XV collected another bonus point on the road thanks to an eight try salvo, including a hat-trick from winger Dave Stillman.

In wet and greasy conditions, the home side took the game to Sully, particularly upfront and at the breakdown which the visitors quickly absorbed.

It was not long before the first score Sports broke blind with good use of the hands by scrum half Lee Walters and winger Stillman allowed No 8 Dean Russell to touch down under the posts.

Cardiff fought back and capitalised on Sully's indiscipline, resulting in two penalties.

This only galvanised the visitors to go up a gear using clever kick and chase tactics, ideal for the soaking pitch, followed by moving the ball wide, allowing Stillman to pick up another try.

Cardiff responded by sneaking a try thanks to a charged down clearance, but another score thanks to captain Peter Mees barging through the home defence regained the visitors' superiority just before half time.

In the second half with the rain and wind at their backs, Sully Sports started to settle down and put together several phases in play, yet the next score

WELSH LEAGUE DIVISION TWO DINAS POWYS 2 BETTWS 0

dealt with a couple of through balls.

The home side had been guilty of wasting a number of set piece balls, most of which were overhit, before Liam Jeremy made amends with an inch-perfect cross headed against an upright by Joe Hinds.

Chris Hinds volleyed a corner high over the crossbar before the referee blew the half-time whistle with neither side really getting to grips with the wind.

The second-half was much improved as far as the home side were concerned and they were able to exert more pressure on the Bettws defence.

But it was Morgan Thomas for the visitors who brought an excellent

with a well directed header past the keeper.

Dinas brought on their three substitutes and played out the remainder of the game and now look forward to a trip to Treherri with an increasing confidence on Saturday.

Squad: 1. Dave Burnett, 2. Chris Lewis, 3. Chris Hinam, 4. Mike Lewis, 5. Dave Penikett, 6. Will Penikett, 7. Robbie Fowler, 8. Richard Yarr, 9. Joe Hinds (1), 10. Steve Provis, 11. Liam Jeremy (1). **Subs:** 12. Rhys Davies, 14. Dimitri Fallas, 15. Joe Briscombe, 16. Mark Dunford, 17. Damien Lack.

Next game: Welsh League Division Two, Saturday, December 3, Treherri Ath Western v Dinas Powys; kick off 2pm.

For further news and fixtures see the club's website: www.dinaspowysfc.co.uk

MW

RAF engineer is on a wave!



PICTURED: CT Lee Medway in action

MOD St Athan windsurfer Chief Technician Lee Medway secured third place at his first attempt at the 2011 UK Masters wave competition series run by the British Wavesailing Association (BWA).

The four nations' series started in May and saw Lee complete back-to-back rounds in Anglesey and Brandon Bay in Ireland, before the summer break.

After a five-month gap, the tour reconvened on Tiree in the Scottish Hebrides. The remote and exposed island saw the competitors brave Atlantic storm-force wind and waves to compete for the prestigious 'Tiree Wave Classic' title.

CT Medway said: "Without the encouragement and support of Royal Air Force Sailing Association (RAFSA) and the other members of



Rear left to right: Matthew Mayor, Joseph Allwood, Evan Wells. Front: Sion Spence, Sam Hopkins, Dylan Lee, William Drew, Rhys Woolmer.

ROMILLY BOYS COULD BE OFF TO WEMBLEY

ROMILLY Primary School year-6 boys have earned themselves the opportunity to play at Wembley Stadium next May in the N Power Championship Schools Kids Cup, which will be played before the Championship play off final.

They have reached the regional finals, to be played in London in February 2012, where they will represent Cardiff City and play

against teams such as Ipswich Town, Portsmouth, Crystal Palace, Brighton, Southampton and Reading.

On Friday, November 4, Romilly played various schools from all over the south Wales area at the House of Sport, Cardiff, where they played nine matches, winning eight and drawing one which made them group winners.

On Wednesday, November 16 at Futsal Cardiff, the top 16 teams competed in the finals, where the winners would represent Cardiff City in the regional finals.

Romilly progressed to the final with an outstanding unbeaten run in which they won all eight matches. The boys kept their best performance for the final, securing a 2-1 win in a hard-fought match of exciting intelligent football and superb goals.

All the boys were then thrilled to be congratulated and presented with their winning certificates by David Marshall, the Cardiff City and Scotland international goalkeeper.

Smart new kit for tag rugby!



THE children at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School have sent a massive 'thank you' to Mr Richard Peter and his staff at the Grape Vine off-licence and delicatessen, St Nicholas Road, Barry, for their sponsorship in providing a brand new rugby kit for the school.

PE and sport co-ordinator, James Ball, said: "The children love the new kit, which helped them to stand out proudly and smartly in a recent tag rugby festival in the Vale and the rugby they played was pretty good as well."

"We are extremely grateful to Mr Peter and the Grape Vine for their generous support," he added.

Company supports Imps



For the sixth year running, AG Adams Funeral Directors have supported Cadoxton Imps FC, this time providing a new match day kit to the under 12A team. The club was formed in 1972 and has supported thousands of local boys and girls in their footballing dreams. Manager of the funeral home, Arthur Thompson, commented that he is very pleased that A G Adams are able to continue to support this local team.

JB

LOCAL SCHOOLS ROUND-UP • LOCAL SCHOOLS ROUND-UP

News from St Cyres Comprehensive



Vaughan Gething AM gets ready to be grilled by the government and politics students at St Cyres school.

AM's visit

A S S E M B L Y Member, Vaughan Gething, paid a visit to St Cyres earlier this month.

The Assembly Member for Cardiff South and Penarth came in to meet the school's government and politics class. Mr Gething explained the key roles and responsibilities of a member of the Assembly and outlined how he has helped to fight to secure the exciting new school developments.

Our inquisitive A Level students quizzed the AM on a variety of topics ranging from devolution in Wales to the welfare system. Mr Gething stood up well to the grilling and pupils gained an invaluable insight into the daily life of a prominent politician.

Battlefields visit

A group of 51 year-10 history students travelled to Belgium during the October half term break.

The group hotel was in Blankenberg on the coast North East of Ostend. A visit to Bruges was an unexpected bonus on the first afternoon.

As the most intact medieval city in Western Europe, Bruges contrasted with the evidence of destruction the students saw at Ypres.

The tour included a visit to the immaculate Commonwealth War Graves at Essex Farm, Artillery Wood and Tyne Cot and the German cemetery at Langemark. The group

also witnessed the last post ceremony at The Menin Gate in Ypres.

One of our students, Anna Trezise, had traced a relative whose sacrifice is commemorated on the monument.

Anna accompanied staff in leaving a tribute to the fallen at the memorial to the Welsh Regiment.

Students have told staff that their recent experience made the subsequent remembrance ceremonies during November far more significant than in previous years.

The history department organises visits to the Battlefields of the First World War in Belgium and to the D-Day beaches of Normandy in alternate years.

Famous faces

JUST before half term, 12 St Cyres pupils from years 7 to 11 took part in a BBC film project.

It was an exciting opportunity to be chosen to create a film that represents part of 'Face Britain', a national project that invites young people in the UK to produce a self-portrait.

All of the artwork submitted will become part of a world record attempt and hopefully the biggest online gallery of young people's self-portraits ever.

The short film shows our talented pupils learning about proportion, producing self-portraits, discussing ideas and expressing opinions about their art.

They took inspiration from Shani Rhys James, a distinguished Welsh artist who paints

The film has been edited and uploaded onto the BBC World Class website and you can watch it by using this link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldclass/>

It will become a subject for school assemblies or art lessons and will be accessible to primary and secondary schools from all over the world. **SB**



ABOVE: Year-10 are pictured at Ypres.

'Team Sri Lanka' honoured

B A R R Y Comprehensive School's 'Team Sri Lanka', who visited the country during the summer, received recognition for their efforts at a reception in the Houses of Parliament during the half-term break.

All 13 team members and several staff from the school who have been to Sri Lanka to work with HelpLanka, travelled to London, to be part of the charity's annual general meeting.

After being greeted by the charity's founder and director, Sam Gononetillake, the students gave a presentation outlining their experiences in Sri Lanka.

They spoke enthusiastically about the teaching they had been involved in – and how much they had enjoyed and been challenged by the afternoon visits to various orphanages and adult homes.

The students were congratulated by Mr Gononetillake on their dedication to fundraising, which reached a total of £5,800, and their work while in Sri Lanka.

They were then presented with awards for their outstanding contribution.

bution to the work of HelpLanka.

Several MPs attended the presentation, including the Vale's Alun Cairns and Tom Brake, the MP for Carshalton and Wallington, who is a patron of the charity.

A representative of the British High Commission in Sri Lanka was also in attendance and offered some words of encouragement and appreciation for the work of the charity.

Alun Cairns commented: "I think that it's fantastic that once again, Barry Comprehensive sixth form pupils were so keen and willing to support the HelpLanka charity."

"Their enthusiasm and commitment for the education project they embarked on is infectious."

"The reception in Westminster was the charity's way of recognising the students' commitment and hard work in making a real difference to the communities and schools that they spent time with."

After the presentation, students were treated to a tour of Parliament by Alun Cairns and enjoyed the view over the Thames from the terrace.

B A R R Y Comprehensive School's year-7 pupils



ABOVE:
Alun Cairns MP
treated the Barry
Comprehensive group to a tour of Parliament.

RIGHT:
Barry Comprehensive School year-7 pupils reporting on their progress.



welcomed their parents/guardians and families to the annual pupil progress presentation evening recently.

During the evening, boys made presentations about their learning to demonstrate the progress that they have made since joining the school in September. Pupils are

asked to focus on English, Maths and a subject of their choice.

Parental involvement in learning is vital in ensuring pupils achieve their highest level. As part of this school/home partnership, parents were

asked to note targets for improvement and support materials were available to make sure the whole family can join-in and make the most of the learning opportunities available.

News from Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig



IT has been a very exciting two weeks for pupils in years 5 and 6 at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig.

Year-5 children spent five days at Abernant Lake Hotel in Llanwrtyd Wells, mid Wales and experienced climbing, abseiling, canoeing, archery and many other activities.

"It was a very exciting place to go, full of challenging activities for us all," said pupil Callum Jones.

Year-6 went on their annual trip to the Urdd camp in Llangrannog, west Wales and experienced skiing, horse riding, trampoline and tobogganing.

Elin Jones, a year-6 pupil said: "I'm already looking forward to coming back in year 7, it's great being away with all my friends. I feel really independent and am enjoying the responsibility!"

On a lighter note, three male staff members are left unshaven after year-6 teacher Mr McAvoy finally succumbed to the constant itching and caved in!

Several fathers have joined our campaign to raise money and thank them for their support! Half-way

Bu lot o gynwyr yr ddiweddar gyda blynnyddoedd 5 a 6 yn mynchiu cyrsiau preswyll yng Nghymru. Fe aeth blwyddyn 5 i ganolbarth Cymru a fe aeth blwyddyn 6 yr holl ffoddol lawr i Langrannog. Fe wnaeth bob plentyn fwynhau'r profiadau a gynnwigyd iddynt a rydym yn ddiolchgar iawn i'r holl staff a ofalodd amdanynt.

Playgroup settles into its new 'home' at Colcot centre



Vale councillors Anthony Ernest, Katherine Kemp and Marguerita Wright called in on the Cylch Bethesda group to see how the children are settling in.

A CHILDREN'S play group that has been operating in Barry for nearly 30 years, has found a new home at the Colcot Sports Centre.

The Cylch Bethesda play group, which caters for children aged two to four, had previously been based at the nearby Alexandra Gardens Community Centre, but had to move when it was announced that the community centre would close.

Play group leader Natalie Kinson said: "I'd like to say a massive thank you to the Vale of Glamorgan Council who have done everything to help us find a new base. We are really pleased with



Coun Marguerita Wright

Cadoxton Imps donate kit to 'Ty Hafan Dads' team



Cowbridge under-15s' joy!

LAST Friday evening at the Heineken Cup match between The Cardiff Blues and London Irish, The Cowbridge under 15's were finally crowned Blues Cup Champions for the 2010/11 season.

On the way to their second Blues Cup Final the boys played five games registering 50 plus points against each of their opponents. Whilst disappointed not to be able to win the Cup on the pitch due to the demise of Rhiwbina, the boys were rewarded for their efforts by receiving their cup and medals from Wales World Cup star Jamie Roberts.

This capped off a superb season for the team following on from their success

in France where they triumphed in the prestigious Paris International Invitation Tournament at Easter.

In winning The Blues Cup the boys have now won every major tournament available for them to enter in Wales, including their own Cardiff & Vale District Tournament (twice), Bridgend, Kidwelly (twice), Pencoed, Trimsaran (4 times), Pontyclun, Llanelli Wanderers (twice) and The Abergavenny Invitation (twice), the latter two being amongst the largest tournaments in Europe.

The team relies heavily on the talent available locally with 20 of the boys, (out of a squad of 25), being drawn from Cowbridge Comprehensive, and are proud to supply 19 players to the Cardiff

Vale District Schools squads.

These district sides are monitored closely by The Cardiff Blues for the purpose of selecting their Blues Under 16 squad for next season, and we are hopeful that a number of the boys will gain selection.

Squad: Josh Thomas, Josh Rodgers, Llywd Elms, Sam Laity, Nicky Griffiths, Liam Martin, Dan Evans, Ben Chester, Alex Guard, Will Brinkley, Harry Goodfellow, Adam Dix, Joe Gaughan, Dan Dowler, Jonny Hunt, Man Herbert, Harry Dowell Bennett, Joe Davies, Aron Bowman, Matt Locke, Sam Richards, Noa Johnson, Matt Howells, Freddie Dewey, Tom Higgins, Joel Ringer.

ABOVE: Ty Hafan Dads' team was delighted to receive kit donated thanks to the generosity of Cadoxton Imps.

CADOXTON Imps Football Club recently donated a new football kit to the dads of children who stay at Ty Hafan Children's Hospice.

A football match took place between the dads and the Imps, which was played in great spirit and a delight to watch.

Jeff Howells, who works as a care team member at Ty Hafan and also coaches for The Imps said: "This was a fantastic donation from Cadoxton Imps, the outcome of a decision made by all of the committee and coaches. The game itself was superb, and we hope to make it a regular event."

"I feel it's important to highlight the roles of the fathers who come to the hospice with the children they love and

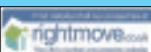
adore.

"I know most of them on a personal level through my job, and can't speak highly enough of them, so to be able to give a football kit through the club will hopefully bring them all together more often to more games."

"A massive thank you goes to Cadoxton Imps for donating the kit, and Dan and Paul at Ty Hafan for doing so much for the guys. I really hope the dads enjoyed it as much as the Imps did."

Anyone wishing to do some fundraising, or possibly challenge the dads to a game should contact Dan, Paul or Jeff at Ty Hafan on 02920 532200 and we will willingly arrange it.

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£129,950



MELYN Y GORS, BARRY
 Three bedrooms, modern semi-detached. Built approx 2004, wc cloak, living room, kitchen/diner, no decorated, no smokers, no pets, street parking. Offered with no chain. Viewing highly recommended.
£154,950



CWM BARRY WAY, BARRY
 Three bedroom, semi detached, extended to ground floor. Original features throughout. In need of modernising. Driveway. No chain.
£169,950



CLOS TYNIAD GLO, BARRY
 Well presented end of link town house. Side access, garage/driveway, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, shower room, two Juliette balconies overlooking front and rear.
£172,950



WHITEWELL ROAD, BARRY
 Three bedrooms, semi detached, living and dining room, driveway, enclosed rear. Low maintenance garden, brick-built outhouses. Upvc double glazing, gas central heating
£115,000



MARLOES CLOSE, BARRY
 Modern mid link, completely on the level. 2 bedroomed bungalow, living room, sun lounge, wet room, modern fitted kitchen, enclosed rear garden, Upvc double glazing, gas central heating via combi. Driveway/parking.
£99,950



HOLLY COURT, BARRY
 First floor apartment. Communal door entry system. Living room with balcony, two bedrooms, family bathroom, upvc double glazing. Parking. No chain.
£85,000



OXFORD STREET, BARRY
 Rarely to come on the market. 3 bedroom, bay fronted semi. Approx built in 1930's. Living/dining room, kitchen, utility. South facing garden/garage to rear. Upvc double glazing, gas central heating via combi.
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£104,950



FLAT 4, GLADSTONE COURT, BARRY
 Maintenance free living. 1st floor apartment. Living room with Juliette balcony, 2 bedrooms, upvc double glazing, gas central heating via combi. family bathroom, refurbished throughout. Modern fitted kitchen/breakfast, designated parking, communal gardens.
£114,950



GRAYTON COTTAGE, BARRY
 Spacious dorma detached bungalow. Ground floor: Study (bedroom), living room, dining and sun lounge, 2 bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast. 1st floor: sitting room, dressing room, bathroom and master bedroom. Private garden and garage.
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- Enclosed rear garden
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- Gas central heating & double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- Far reaching views over Bristol Channel
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- Communal front & rear gardens
- Viewing highly recommended
- No ongoing chain

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- Conservatory
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- Offered freehold

£299,000

£120,000



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Gladstone Road - 2 Bedroom 1st floor flat in popular location. GCH. DG. Unfurnished £525 pcm

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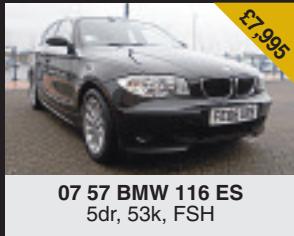
09 09 Mercedes Benz C220
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08 08 Mazda 5 1.8 TS2
45k, FSH, 7 seats, 1 owner



09 59 Citroen C2 1.6 HDi VTR
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08 58 Suzuki Swift 1.5 GLX
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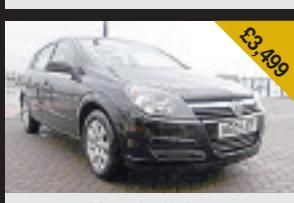
06 06 Ford Focus
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Impressive scores for David and Calcaterra at golf society meeting



THE monthly meeting of The Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was held last Thursday at Whitchurch Golf Club, Cardiff which attracted 42 entries all competing for the many quality prizes supplied by the day's sponsors Herbert R Thomas Ltd of Cowbridge.

The winner in the members' section with a very impressive 40 stableford points was Martyn David followed by society president Geraint Davies who fin-

ished runner up with 37 points. Neil McLean with 36 points finished third and Godfrey Lewis fourth with 34 points.

In the guest section, former 18-handicap golfer (but now 14) Robert Calcaterra took the honours when scoring 40 points, seven points clear of runner up James Hayes who scored 33 points.

Sponsors' representative Gavin Rees finished third with 31 points while his work colleague James Mordecai mixed business with pleasure by carrying out a survey of most of the course during his round!

Nearest the pin on the

LEFT:
Successful golfers Robert Calcaterra and Martyn David with sponsor Andrew Thomas, and David Williams.

par three holes were Keith Davies, Barrie Melhuish, Martyn David and Robert Calcaterra.

The 'James Hog Roast' longest drive sponsor Mr Keith James was unable to be present due to being under house arrest (and a touch of gout) but would have been impressed with the length of Neil McLean's drive on the 18th hole to collect the longest drive 33 points.

Sponsors' representative Gavin Rees finished third with 31 points while his work colleague James Mordecai mixed business with pleasure by carrying out a survey of most of the course during his round!

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Bees pushed

BARRY under-9s entertained Rhodyfelin at the Reservoir Fields on a bright and warm Sunday morning.

The Bees were hard pressed and conceded two tries. This spurred the Bees on and the game turned in Barry's favour, Rhys Lloyd scoring two quick tries to put the Bees back into the game at the break.

The Bees were now in full flow and two well worked tries came from Seb Fahy and James Chapman.

Rhodyfelin responded to make it 4-3, but the Barry forwards were dominant and Jacob Pereira burst through to make it 5-3.

Rhodyfelin, were far from beaten and scored a couple of good tries but a

try saving tackle from Stephen Williams denied them another.

After a series of surging runs from the Barry forwards, Cole Saunders surged down the wing for the winning score with the last play of the game.

Rhodyfelin provided a much tougher test for the Bees, but again they came through to gain a deserved win. This was another strong squad performance with everyone contributing positively.

Team: Jacob Pereira, Jake Lang, Isaac McBride, Charlie Bale, Ethan Watkins, James Latham, Myles Latham, Rhys Lloyd, Stephen Williams, Seb Fahy, Harrison Kelly, James Chapman, Cole Saunders.

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Summer Pony Club championships.

THREE of Llangeinor Pony Club members have raised £157 for the Animal Health Trust to aid research into equine diseases.

After taking part in the Pony Club Championships in Derby in August, Philippa Roe, Beth Granville and Jessica Allen pledged to raise £100 for the Animal Health Trust to help save ponies' lives by contributing towards the building of a new

laboratory at the AHT headquarters in Warwickshire.

If the £100,000 target is reached, the Animal Health Trust will name a laboratory after The Pony Club in honour of all the hard work and support from Pony Clubs throughout the UK.

The girls surpassed the £100 pledge they made with a sponsored tack cleaning session and baking cakes to sell to other Pony Club members, resulting in a cheque for

Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club tack cleaning fundraisers

£157 being sent to the Animal Health Trust.

District Commissioner Mrs Marion Elliott said: "We are so happy to be able to send off the cheque from the girls who have arranged all the fundraising themselves. It is so gratifying to know our members have contributed to this most worthy cause and we sincerely hope to reach the target to benefit all horse and pony owners in the future."

ME

Llantwit Major Junior Football round-up

LAST Saturday saw notched a hat trick, one. Morgan Gore (2), Lewis Brown (2) and Dan Williams.

Special mention to stand-in goalie, Laurence Bowman, who didn't put a foot wrong throughout the game.

The under-13 A gave a superb display to recover from 2-1 down midway through the second half to beat Cadoxton Imps B 4-2 and win a place in the semi-final.

Despite losing a couple of their squad to illness, the players who took over played exceptionally well.

Skipper Bevan Howell led the team and gave a very good display. Llantwit took an early lead and never looked back, with goals from Luke Beattie who

notched a hat trick, one. Morgan Gore (2), Lewis Brown (2) and Dan Williams.

However, Dinas stepped up the pace in extra time and came out on top 7-4. Dan Vickers was on top form and scored a hat trick with Alex Parry scoring the fourth for the Major, but it was not enough to take them through.

It was another defeat for the under-15 side in the other quarter-final against Cogan Coronation B.

The side gave a good first half display against a side who had previously beaten Llantwit in the league.

It was goalless at the interval and hopes were high after the break but with the wind at their backs, Cogan went in

front and once in the lead, they never looked back to run away with a 6-0 win.

The under-14 and under-16 cup competition this season will be played on a group basis and will kick off in March.

This week, Llantwit Major juniors had good news when the Vale League chose the under-14 side to represent the league in the SWFA Tesco Cup and the under-16 team were selected to play in the SWFA Junior Cup – both competitions kick off at the end of January.

Gwyn John

The Cowbridge under-11s work hard for win

COWBRIDGE under-11s returned to winning ways with a hard fought 35-28 away victory to close rivals Pencoed.

Cowbridge broke the deadlock with a fantastic try by Jack Dixon and this first try seemed to galvanise the Cowbridge team into some great running rugby.

The boys' second try came after the forwards produced some good clean ball for Ioan to feed Evan who, with a quick pass, put Ruben who was lurking in the backs into space. Ruben picked up some speed and managed to outpace the Pencoed defence to score in the corner.

The next try from Cowbridge was the try of the game.

Straight from the kick off, following Ruben's try, the Cowbridge pack regained the ball and the backs moved the ball along the line seamlessly.

The forwards recycled the ball and once again great hands across the back line put Gabriel Davies in at the corner to

score his first try of the season.

The final score of the first half came again straight from Ioan's kick off, and this time a mix up in the Pencoed defence allowed Evan to touch down without a Pencoed hand touching the ball.

The second half was a very different affair with the Pencoed team scoring four tries to one. It was however, a very important one, with the winning margin only being seven points.

Throughout the second half the Cowbridge team defended bravely against an avalanche of tap penalties, with Jack Dixon having his best game of the season so far.

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GJ

WINNERS COLLECT THEIR SILVERWARE AT BRYNHILL

THE annual presentation night was held at Brynhill Golf Club on Saturday, November 12 with a full house enjoying the proceedings.

Club captain Steve Jones thoroughly enjoyed his evening, feeling like a film star with the amount of photos that were taken of him, though he was well assisted by his vice-captain Glenn Taylor.

More than 80 winners and runners-up from the men's section collected their silverware, though unfortunately club champion Scott Bowman could not collect either the Championship Trophy nor his Morgan Williams Cup – yet another successful year for Scottie.

Many of the members also had a good year with many having their picture taken nearly as often as Steve, among them Ronnie Holland, Wayne Adams, Darryl Hewitson, Lee Price, Simon Pringle, Andrew Redmond and Richard Webb.

Andrew Redmond took the George Williams Cup but also came runner-up in two other competitions.

Simmon Pringle took both the Dai Rees Cup and the Kenyon Davies Cup with his partner Darryl Hewitson, as well as also receiving two runners-up prizes, and former club champion Wayne won the Bristol Cup with his partner David Hayman as well as the Ken Murphy Gross Cup.

Pictured last but certainly not least is Jon Burrows, winner of the Victor Ludorum Cup for the best and most consistent golfer in all club competitions held over the year.

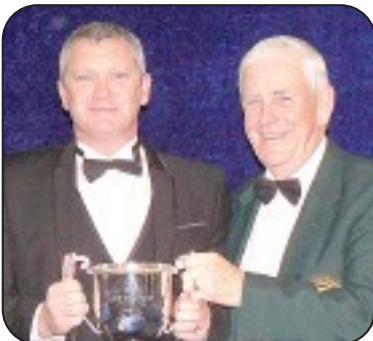
The rain has set in now but most members are already practicing their swings and working on their games with club pro Duncan Prior, in readiness for next season – enjoying too the newly installed winter tees – a revelation using a new blend of astro turf and sand!



Alan Sweeny being presented with The Presidents Cup by club president Peter Hayman.



Chris Phillips presenting Mike Bird with the 'Don The Fox' trophy – named in honour of Chris' father



John Giles and immediate past-captain John Kirkpatrick, winners of both the Junior Gold Cup and the Champagne Breakfast.



Simmon Pringle. Andrew Redmond.



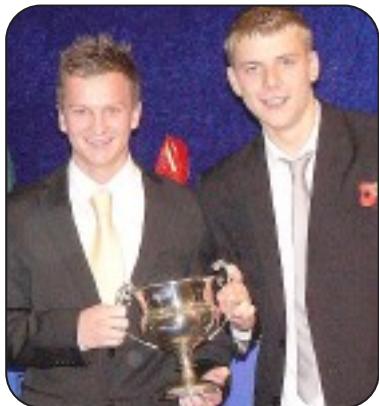
Jeff Wilcox with the captain.



Jon Burrows, the Victor Ludorum winner, with club captain Steve Jones.



Wayne Adams with the Ken Murphy Cup.



Matthew looks to excel this weekend

MANY congratulations to Barry Comprehensive year-11 pupil Mathew Collins.

Twelve months ago – on the first weekend in December – the then year-10 pupil was looking forward to a first ever Welsh Schools international appearance, in the under-16 age group at the SIAB Schools' Indoor Combined Events at the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow.

Sadly, because of the bad weather in late November and December 2010, that event was postponed and re-scheduled for the first Saturday in February 2011.

As a result, Mathew made his international debut over 800 metres for the Dragons squad at the under-16 Celtic Schools' indoor international at the National Indoor Athletics Centre, Cyncoed, on the last

weekend in January of this year.

On the following weekend, he travelled to Glasgow for the re-scheduled SIAB Indoor Combined Events, finishing eighth (2,756 points) and helping his under-16 (years 9 and 10) squad claim the team gold ahead of England and Ireland.

In the summer, after

hugely encouraging improvement over 400 metres, finishing second at the Aviva Welsh Schools' National track and field championships, he was selected to compete at the Aviva SIAB Schools' under-17 international at Cardiff International Sports Stadium.

He finished fifth in the 400 metres and helped that 4 x 400 metres squad take the silver medals.

Those quality performances over one lap also earned him a spot in the Welsh Schools' 4 x

400 metres squad at the Sainsbury's UK School Games in Sheffield in early September.

At that event, he had the honour of running the last leg, bringing the team home to a hugely pleasing first place.

This Saturday, December 3, as a result of excellent performances at the Welsh Schools outdoor combined events championships at Newport in June, and the equivalent invitation indoor events at NIAC in early November, he has been selected to make his debut in the older under-18 (years 11 and 12) section.

It is a huge step up, but Mathew has worked very hard, and broke the 3,000 points barrier at NIAC on his last outing.

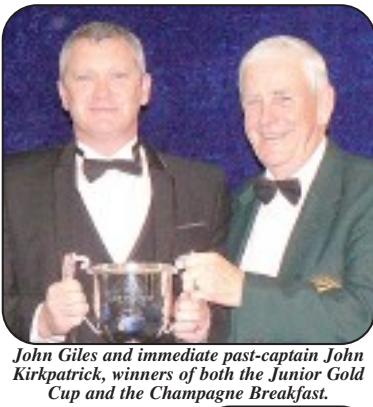
He knows that he can improve in a number of the five events in which he has to compete – 60 metres hurdles, shot, 200 metres, long jump

and 800 metres.

If he does compete next Saturday, it will mean an undreamed of fifth Welsh Schools appearance in a calendar year – could that achievement be made even sweeter by another team medal?

We wish Mathew well, and hope that he will follow in the footsteps of another Barry Comprehensive pupil, Curtis Mathews, and go on to achieve international honours in the decathlon for the Aviva Great Britain and Northern Ireland team.

Also included in the team at Glasgow next Saturday are Cowbridge pupils George Griffiths (year-10) and Tom Trotman (year-9), who



John Giles and immediate past-captain John Kirkpatrick, winners of both the Junior Gold Cup and the Champagne Breakfast.



Simmon Pringle. Andrew Redmond.

Bleu's hopes

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams is hoping to become the first Welsh-based trainer to win the Coral Welsh National since Cowbridge's Denzil Jenkins won in 1965 with eight-year-old Norther, who was ridden by then top jockey Terry Biddlecombe.

Norther, a former Welsh point-to-pointer, went on to finish seventh in the following year's Aintree Grand National. The horse that Evan is resting his hopes on is nine-year-old Cappa Bleu who, after a 20-month absence, won a three-mile handicap chase at Haydock last week. Cappa Bleu won the 2009 Christie's Magic Marmalade.

Di Kaprio, a 11-1 chance, was ridden by Paul Moloney. You can email your news and views to Brian Lee at leebrian@btinter.net.com or phone him on 02920736438.

BRIAN LEE

Incidentally, Norther used to be ridden in some of his races by Evan's father, Rhys Williams,

and I recall them winning

At Newbury last Thursday, Evan's French-bred Di Kaprio, racing for the first time in 250 days, landed the novice handicap hurdle, coming home two-and-a-half lengths clear of Magic Marmalade.

Di Kaprio, a 11-1 chance, was ridden by Paul Moloney.

You can email your news and views to Brian Lee at leebrian@btinter.net.com or phone him on 02920736438.

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by TIM SAUNDERS

THAT'S my opinion of the Peugeot 5008, which has hints of the distinctive GMC truck driven by a certain B A Baracus in the cult US action series.

The Pug is boxy at the rear and the design follows a similar path to the GMC van although the 5008 is closer to the ground, has a lower more slanted windscreen and there isn't that big grille either, making it more aerodynamic.

This is the French manufacturer's "first own official MPV (Multi-Purpose Vehicle)", according to Peugeot's Craig Morrow.

Bearing in mind the size of a people carrier, the 5008 is a competent performer, handling and cornering well. Plus there's no wallowing at high speed.

In common with all the latest Peugeots build quality is impressive although it lacks a sliding door for Hannibal and his crew to jump from although there are a host of extras for them



to enjoy during a mission.

These include: air-con and electric windows, panoramic glass roof, video screens in the rear headrests, folding tables and a fold-flat third row of seats.

Plus there's a clever mirror above the rear view mirror for checking on Murdock or Face in the back – particularly useful for monitoring baby daughter Harriett.

My only criticism is that there are too many gadgets on the dashboard including a switch for measuring the distance of vehicles ahead.

On start up a pop-up sat nav and a head up display with mph reading lift from the dash, which can distract the driver.

Well-designed leather seats provide a very comfortable and supportive driving position while the armrests at the

side of the front seats are a useful addition.

Last week, I tested an Alfa Mito and its seats resulted in my already temperamental back suffering additional twinges.

With regards fuel

economy 5008 HDi drivers enjoy 55mpg, helped by a responsive six-speed manual gearbox and cruise control, which can be used at under 30mph.

When parked the

5008's wing mirrors electronically fold, which is particularly worthwhile when parking on a roadside, preventing them from being knocked by other vehicles.

Parkers, the car experts, say: "Although Peugeot has a long tradition of seven-seat cars, the 5008 is the first model it has offered as a direct alternative to cars like the Vauxhall Zafira.

Compact people carriers have become far

more popular in the last couple of decades, particularly those flexible enough to carry more than five, but whose extra seats are unobtrusive.

The Peugeot 5008

rivals can like the

Citroën C4 Grand

Picasso and Volkswagen

Touran for flexibility,

but is more like the Ford

S-MAX and Mazda6 in

terms of driver appeal."

It just needs to be painted black and have a red stripe down the side and I am sure the A-Team would be delighted, particularly with the improved economy over their GMC truck.

Model tested: 5008

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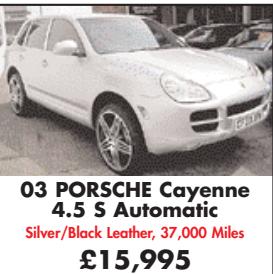
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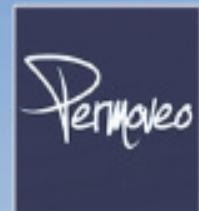
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GEM sport

Young Welsh wizards can start to shed their 'heroic losers' label against Oz...

APRIL 12, 1969...a truly momentous date in Welsh rugby history – when a powerful England team was crushed 30-9 at the National Stadium, Cardiff – with wing Maurice Richards running in three tries and Barry John adding another.

Momentous, because it heralded a glittering decade of unparalleled success for a group of precociously-gifted, stylish young Welsh players – Barry, JPR (winning his first full cap) Gerald, Gareth and Mervin et al – with whom, 40 years on, the entire rugby world is still on first name terms.

With a record of three Grand Slams (only the ever-stubborn Irish thwarted a fourth attempt) and a Triple Crown, their achievements are the stuff of legend – universally hailed as a second Welsh Golden Age.

Over the years since that exceptional group hung up their boots, there have been many 'false dawns' – with heady euphoria all too often giving way to bleak despair for supporters fervently hoping for a new generation of '70s-style stars to suddenly emerge and restore Wales as a force to be reckoned with in world rugby.

Sadly, those hopes invariably founded on successive Welsh teams' seeming inability to maintain the essential requirement for any lasting success at this level – consistency.

Even two Grand Slams in 2005 and 2008

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

failed to convince sceptics that the breakthrough had been made and that these were anything more than sporadic bursts of light in the prevailing gloom – an impression confirmed by Wales' poor showing in last year's Six Nations.

Maybe, just maybe, though, there are now signs that the long wait truly could be over, and that the current breed of exciting young warriors in red represent the best chance yet of this core failing being finally put to rest.

It began with two convincing wins against England and Argentina in the World Cup warm-up matches in Cardiff, following on an impressive showing at Twickenham.

It continued in New Zealand with a string of highly-acclaimed World Cup performances, including wins over Samoa, Fiji, Namibia and Ireland, leading to a semi-final against France, which many (including the French themselves) thought Wales should not have narrowly lost (8-9) even though reduced to 14 men.

Couple that with another one-point loss (16-17) to the defending World Cup champions South Africa and a three-point loss (18-21) to Australia in the third place play-off, and there are genuine grounds for believing that Wales, under Kiwi head coach, Warren Gatland, may well have turned an important psychological

corner.

The flip side, of course, as the frustrated Welsh camp readily admitted, was that despite eye-catching performances and agonisingly narrow defeats, in the final analysis, they had not actually won anything...

At the end of the day, they had failed to ruthlessly ram home their advantage, let opponents off the hook, were unable to wrest victory from tight situations, and again failed to claim the scalps of southern hemisphere giants when they had golden opportunities to do so.

As All Blacks' World Cup winning head coach (and former Welsh coach) Graham Henry, pointed out, Wales must become far more clinical and develop a ruthless edge if they hope to shed their "heroic losers" image.

This Saturday, they have an early chance to start proving point – and at the same time avenge their defeat in the RWC third place play-off, when the Australians arrive at the Millennium Stadium hot foot from their ruthless 60-11 dismembering of the Barbarians' scratch side at Twickenham.

Having managed to keep his coaching team intact around him, Gatland is already starting to focus on the next World Cup in four years' time (hence his own ruthlessness in discarding veteran Stephen Jones and warning any squad

players outside Wales that they are putting their international future on the line).

Thus, for all the reasons above, and despite gaps in the ranks through injury or unavailability, there is no way that he will be treating the match on Saturday as anything less than a full-on international clash – another chance to iron out the irritating errors and flaws that frustrate his fast-developing young team's full flowering on the world scene.

Capturing a major Tri-Nations scalp in Cardiff would not only do wonders for morale, as a post-script to the World Cup, but lay down a marker in the more important long-term struggle for consistency.

In this respect, the date December 3, 2011, may yet come to take on a significance on a par with April 12, 1969 – and the occasion also marks the international swansong of wing wizard Shane Williams, who would certainly not have been out of place in that '70s team of super stars.

WALES TEAM v Australia

Leigh Halfpenny; George North, Scott Williams, Jamie Roberts, Shane Williams; Rhys Priestley, Lloyd Williams; Gethin Jenkins, Huw Bennett, Scott Andrews, Bradley Davies, Ian Evans, Dan Lydiate, Sam Warburton (captain), Toby Faletau. Replacements: Matthew Rees, Ryan Bevington, Ryan Jones, Justin Tipuric, Tavis Knoyle, Dan Biggar, Alex Cuthbert.

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Yellow cards – and an early bath for the linesman as Barry lose!

LAST SATURDAY Barry made the short trip to Cardiff to play a side in a similar position in the league table.

The sky was overcast and the cold wind brought with it a miserable and insistent drizzle.

Barry kicked off with the breeze at their backs and were quickly into their stride with some good forward drives.

Almost immediately, the visitors were awarded a penalty in a kickable position.

Unfortunately, Lee's attempt rebounded off the woodwork and the ball was cleared.

The Barry pack con-

tinued to put pressure on the Llandaff eight, who were forced to concede another penalty.

Lee made no mistake this time and with a sweet strike put his side into a deserved lead.

Llandaff were well

served by a very nimble and adventurous outside half who kept them in the game, and he levelled the scores after half an hour with a well-struck kick.

Both teams were

becoming exasperated by the referee's interpretation of the laws governing the ruck and maul, and between the 20th and 30th minutes,

the man with the whistle observed three Barry players and two from Llandaff committing infringements worthy of a penalty attempt.

Barry had to endure a period of sustained pressure by the home side with their No 8 making valuable yardage.

Their cause was not

helped by some loose

kicking by the backs;

LLANDAFF RFC
BARRY RFC

13
3

yellow cards!

Unsurprisingly the game lost its shape at this juncture and meandered uneventfully towards half time.

The home team began the second half stronger and soon after the restart they were successful in converting a short range penalty.

Barry had a reprieve soon afterwards when the Llandaff fly-half struck the upright with a penalty attempt.

Barry had to endure a period of sustained pressure by the home side with their No 8 making valuable yardage.

Their cause was not

helped by some loose

kicking by the backs;

with hard earned possession being frittered away.

The game wandered to a conclusion with both teams tiring in difficult conditions; however, the referee had the final say by banishing a line judge for expressing his opinion!

Barry: Ryan, Provis, Busitil, Walsh, J.Jones, Hardy, Lee, Bowditch, Evans, Deugara, Hollister, McTavish, O'Sullivan, Parker, H.Jones (captain); r e p l a c e m e n t s . O'Sullivan, Elsworth, Chucas.

The club's next game is at home to Dinas Powys in the SWALEC Bowl on Saturday, December 10, kick off 2.30pm.

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